

THE PILGRIM

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No. 1

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (1 John 4:14)"

THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR

A new year before us--so pure and unmarred,
So free from all evil, from sin yet unscarred;
It stretches ahead, unknown, still untrod. . .
Oh, may we begin it and end it with God!

Not only a year, but a century, too,
And a brand new millennium coming to view;
Though we know not what its days will unfold,
Let us trust and obey; God the future doth hold!

Our eyes should be fixed upon Jesus our Savior,
Striving to live in His love and His favor;
Growing in grace and the knowledge of Him,
Climbing still upward, the high prize to win.

With honor preferring our sister and brother,
In humble submission to love one another;
As Christ has loved us, so also should we
Be humble and loving, from enmity free.

The fruits of the Spirit, His love and His joy,
With faith and longsuffering our daily employ;
Goodness and gentleness, temperance and peace,
Meekness, humility, never should cease.

Oh, may this gift of the new year He's sent,
Be for our Savior in service well spent!
So when its time closes, on earth or in heaven,
We know we've used wisely this gift we've been given.

Rhoda Royer, Nappanee, Indiana

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JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

Now a new scene of time begins;
Set out afresh for heaven.

--Simon Browne

The news of the day is filled with comments about the change to the year 2000. What will it be like? Will any or all of the warnings come true? As I write, we still do not know. But as you read this, the date will already end with 2000, and we will know how it was to change to a new year, century, and millennium.

I think that most of the Christian's attention should be centered on the return of Jesus Christ. What really matters is our readiness for that great day. In Mark 13:32-37 the Savior tells us that we will not know the exact time (Even the angels and the Son do not know, but only the Father. -verse 32), but we are to be ready. He concludes with this directive: "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." That includes us.

What are we to "watch" for? In the first place, we are to watch our own conduct. In verse 33, He says, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." He tells us it is like a man "taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch." Further warning was, "Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping." It is dangerous to sleep when we should be working and watching. Matthew records (24:48-51) the Savior's warning against carelessness, quarreling, and drunkenness. So one of the important things to "watch" is ourselves.

In Jesus' parable He said the man left work for his servants: "To every man his work." What has Jesus left for His servants

to do? One of the most important projects of God's people is the spread of the Gospel. This includes teaching our children, serving in the church, reaching out to those around us with compassion, and speaking the good news wherever we have opportunity. Let no one say there is nothing for them to do in God's Kingdom. All we do that is worthwhile is by His Spirit's power. But we are to yield our bodies and our means to be used for Him. Paul wrote in I Cor. 15:34, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame." We do have responsibility to others. We are our brother's keeper.

The Savior also tells of signs to watch for. He says, "... the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken." This is from Mark 13:24,25 but similar words are in Matthew 24:29 and Luke 21:25,26. The next expression from the Savior Himself is "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory."

The signs mentioned may be symbolic, but we know they are true. Exact timing, too, is difficult for us to determine for sure. But, as my father used to say, "When we see the fulfillment, we will recognize that it was just the way it was told." Then we will understand perfectly. Now, I must admit that there are mysteries in God's Word that I do not know and apparently do not need to know.

In I Thess. 5:2-6 Paul writes, "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief . . . Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be

sober." Some think this refers to a different event, but Paul writes the same warning as the Savior: don't sleep but watch!

We are quite familiar with preparing for events in ordinary life. If we expect company, we clean the house, have food on hand, and make sure our time is free. If we plan a trip, we have the car serviced, look up routes, plan for meals and lodging, and provide the money needed. But the coming of Jesus is an event we have never experienced. We will not need food, or gasoline in the car, or a clean house. We need not prepare for power outages, failed banks, or mistaken computers. But we do need to prepare our hearts by believing and repenting. Our Lord suffered, died, and rose again to open the way for sinful men to be ready. Through His atonement, His righteousness, His intercession, we can be justified (declared innocent) in God's sight. Jesus' life of example and the epistles of the Gospel writers describe the growth and sanctification possible in the new life in Christ. When we are born again and part of the family of God, we can be sure He will receive us at His coming.

We believe the year A.D. 2000 begins the seventh millennium of human history--four millenniums from creation to Jesus' birth and two millenniums since that advent. What God's timing is we do not know, but we know that this is the last time (I John 2:18) and that we are nearer than we have ever been to the coming of Jesus. May we be awake, watching, and ready.

ARE WE READY?

Ready for Jesus to come?

Ready to go with Him home?

Watching to see the great signs in the sky?

Listening to hear the trump's sound by and by?

Then will the Savior descend,

When all that on Him now depend

Are caught up to meet Him in glory and power:

Saved from destruction in that final hour.

Prepare now the Savior to meet;
Prepare now your loved ones to greet;
You'll not need to fear all the warnings of men,
For Jesus will reign over all the earth then.

To Him be the glory and praise
For bringing us through the last days.
We'll laud Him with songs for He died to save us;
May we welcome Him soon: Even so come Lord Jesus.
--L.C.

PATIENCE

"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:4)

The lack of patience is the cause of much of the problems around us. In the business world, time is money; and as I have personally experienced, when a part or product is not readily available I become impatient. People often think they have to have the newest and best right now, so they go into debt to buy the latest. The thrust of the advertising world is to tell you that you can have what you want and can have it now! This impatient behavior leads to further dissatisfaction.

Realizing that the lack of patience creates frustration, we want to examine just what the virtue of patience is in the life of the Christian.

Patience is a vital virtue in our family life, our work or business, and most effective in our spiritual life. I believe all of us parents will confess that we have at times not had the patience with our children and spouses that we should have had. Rearing a family is actually a training experience for our children, and, as any teacher knows, it takes lots of patience to instill knowledge and skills in a child. When we became too busy to exercise patience with members of our family, tensions

misunderstandings, and quarrellings result. Also, on the job, how often have we seen problems arise from being too hasty and not following instructions! Patience is the oil that makes life flow more smoothly and is a vital virtue of the Christian life.

The Apostle James has much to say concerning patience in the life of the believer. I would encourage you to read the epistle of James. The patriarch Job and the prophet Jeremiah are two most noted examples of patience in the life of the faithful. Within the past year we have had in our midst several of our young brethren who have experienced adversity due to affliction and accident. It has been my observation that the patient example of faith in each of these situations have made a forceful witness for the Faith. "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." (James 5:11)

What is the perfect work of patience? I believe it is the forming of Christian character.

Joseph Wagner, Modesto, California

YEAR'S END RESOLVE

This year was one of richest grace
That Thou in love didst give to me;
To paths of light Thy hand has led,
In deepest joy my heart made free.

As offering to Thy dear name
Oh, take my life in every part;
I give it Thee complete and whole,
Fill Thou alone my mind and heart.

Oh, may I live throughout the year
For Thee alone, led by Thy hand;
Protect me, Lord, from wrong and sin;
To serve Thee purely here I stand.

Eberhard Arnold, 1905

Selected by Michael Harris

MEETING AT THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF
THE SELECTIVE SERVICE
Arlington, Virginia

The brethren felt the need for this meeting because of changes and developments in our representation to the Selective Service System (SSS) at the national level. It is the desire of our national leaders that its subjects would communicate in this way.

One of the main concerns we have is in the organization that represents the conscientious objector's status at the national level which was founded after World War I. Its title is "National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors. (NISBCO)

Our concerns about NISBCO is that their efforts and motives in peace making are not necessarily from a Biblical standpoint, but from the power of the human mind which is called *humanism* or *pacifism*. Their claim is that through human reasoning and pacifying, men can become peaceful and loving by their own efforts and wisdom, regardless of man's moral and religious convictions.

To implement this theology, it uses political forces to vindicate itself and uses this power to make demands of our government which is not in harmony with the historical peace church. The past national head of NISBCO, until a little over a year ago, was Shazir Anwar, the first woman and the first Muslim to hold this position. (This above statement was in one of Brother Robert Lehigh's notes. I called him about it. He gave me permission to use it and said he has documentation to its validity. --K.M.)

Brother Robert Lehigh from the Dunkard Brethren Church was the coordinator in making the appointment with the Selective Service System, which included the Old Order River

Brethren and the Old Brethren. Some of us from Indiana had planned to be in Pennsylvania that weekend, not knowing that this appointment had been made with the SSS the following Monday. As we look back over the events that took place, we feel God's hand in it and we are thankful.

On Monday morning December 6, we met at Frederick, Md. from three different geographical points in eastern Pennsylvania: Brethren David Sauder and Jason Reed from Lancaster, Brethren Robert Lehigh and Merle Sweitzer from York, Brethren Amos Bricker, Howard Myers, Harold Wenger, Thomas Anderson, Harold Royer, Herman Royer, and Kenneth Martin from Franklin County. The last four were from Indiana, but guests in Franklin County making eleven in all.

We left Frederick at 7:45 in two vehicles. In normal conditions, this would have given us an hour of grace, but it soon began to rain and traffic became heavy. When we were within four miles of our destination we called to the place we were to meet and explained our predicament. They said, "No problem," and that they would have a man in front of the building to help us to a parking place. Soon after we had called, the ones in the vehicle behind us called and said they had a flat tire. We found a place to park beside the parkway, and we all got into Brother Robert's eleven passenger van and pursued our journey. We arrived about ten minutes late. The man in front of the building saw us, came out to the street and got into the van. He was friendly and accommodating, and directed us around the block and parked us underneath the building we were to meet in. We took an elevator to the fourth floor where the meeting was to be held.

The four men, including the one that helped us park, gave us a warm reception, thanked us for coming, and put us at ease. They introduced themselves, then showed us a thirteen minute video on why the U.S. maintains a SSS. After that they

explained why and how the SSS functions and said that in about a half hour the chief executive, the Honorable Gil Coronado, would come in and also share its functions with us.

They explained at length the need for the SSS, for the security of the U.S. and that they are not a physical part of the military. Their job is to be able to mobilize man power immediately if they would call. We believe the reason for them to emphasize the need for SSS is that there are forces that are trying to eliminate SSS. One of the reasons they feel it needs to continue is that "Justice and Equity" is the right of every American citizen, and that SSS in its present state has legislated laws that protect justice and equity. They admitted that in World War I and prior, justice and equity were not functional in the SSS.

When the chief executive came in, he greeted each one and welcomed us. His remarks confirmed what we had already heard. We believe this was an act to prove to us that SSS is united in their efforts.

We assured them that we hadn't come to criticize or work against what they were doing, that we are thankful for our government, and that we pray for them. They seemed to appreciate this and said they were glad to hear this.

In discussing the present draft laws, they said it is required that all men register within thirty days of the eighteenth birthday. Prior to this they will receive a notice telling them how and where they can register: either by telephone, at the post office, or on the internet. At this time there is no need to declare our status for classification as there are 1.8 million young men who turn eighteen every year, and if they were called for service, their physical examination would eliminate nearly fifty percent of them. The young men who were physically fit would receive a notice and could then apply for conscientious objector status.

They gave us an update on the procedure in qualifying for a C.O. status which we hope to print soon. We sensed a high respect for the historical peace church. They said if a young man is part of this and has this support, with a personal testimony, there would be no question of his C.O. status. It was quite clear that it wouldn't be as simple to attain a C.O. status as it was in prior times. We thanked them for this, and they seemed to appreciate it. They also asked us for a written statement on our non-resistant stand, which we were able to give them. This would be kept in their files.

There are over ten thousand draft board members in the U.S., all on voluntary service. They have some formal training and also take refresher courses. They have the responsibility to determine if a draftee is eligible for a C.O. status. If there would be a problem in the local board, there are provisions made from higher levels of authority. Their main concern was "fairness and equity." We were in conference about two hours. In leaving they assured us of their support, and if we had a problem, we should contact them.

As we study the update of the draft code for C.O.'s, we believe the government is fair with us. Their requirement is a Biblical standard. I Peter 3:15: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (See also II Cor. 13:5 and II Tim. 2:15.)

Because our young men are required by the update in the draft code, that they have their convictions written and documented, it would be good if they would do this before their eighteenth birthday and have it in possession of the church. We believe this would also enrich their convictions and bless them in verbal testimony.

We are thankful for our good government and for the freedom and privileges they are giving us. We also know Satan is not pleased with this and was able to cause many to fall in the

line of duty in alternate service. May the church and our young men fear the tragedy of this and assist one another in faithfulness.

Kenneth Martin, Nappanee, Indiana

PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER

I cannot tell why there should come to me
A thought of some one miles and miles away!
In swift insistence on the memory,
Unless a need there be that I should pray.

Too hurried oft are we to spare the thought,
For days together, of some friends away;
Perhaps God does it for us, and we ought
To read His signal as a call to pray.

Perhaps, just then, my friend has fiercer fight,
And more appalling weakness and decay
Of courage, darkness, some lost sense of right;
And so, in case he needs my prayer, I pray.

Friend, do the same for me. If I intrude
Unasked upon you, on some crowded day,
Give me a moment's prayer as interlude;
Be very sure I need it, therefore, pray.

And when you pray, dear friend, I ask of thee,
That thou will seek of God not mine own way;
Not what I want, but His blest thought for me,
Do thou through Jesus Christ implore, I pray.

--Marianne Farningham

(The last verse added by James M. Gray)

Selected by Glenn and Sharon Wells

OBITUARY

Leona Skiles was born November 10, 1918, near Wakarusa, Indiana, to Joseph and Grace (Geyer) Flickinger. On December 31, 1940, in Camden, Indiana, she married Joseph D. Skiles.

She lived near Wakarusa, Indiana, all her life. She was a homemaker and a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother.

She departed life at the Elkhart General Hospital on December 7, 1999, after a brief illness at the age of 81 years and 27 days.

She and her husband were dedicated members of the Holdeman Mennonite Church.

Surviving are her husband of nearly 59 years; five daughters, Linda (Mrs. James) Hartzell, Wakarusa, Indiana; Karen (Mrs. Thomas) Dubow, Marquette, Michigan; Grace (Mrs. Michael) Laydon, Iron Mountain, Michigan; Joan (Mrs. Daniel) Fleck, Plainfield, Indiana; and Molly Jo (Mrs. John) Seeck, Cincinnati, Ohio; twelve grandchildren; two sisters: Marie Hunsberger and Lucille (Mrs. Virgil) Beck, and a brother Glen Flickinger.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters: Mabel Kunin and Ida Hostetler, and two brothers: Charles and Lloyd Flickinger.

A family service was held at Rieth, Rhorer, Ehret, Lienhart Funeral Home in Wakarusa, Indiana, on December 11 followed by funeral services at the Holdeman Mennonite Church, with burial in the Olive West Cemetery.

Ministers conducting the services were John Murray, David Heusinkveld, Vernard Guengerich, and Simon Gingerich.

The Family

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Best wishes to all our readers at the beginning of this new period of time and history! God has blessed us to allow completion of another year of publication, the forty-sixth since *The Pilgrim* was begun in 1954 by Brother Daniel F. Wolf. Thank God for His faithfulness.

We appreciate all who have helped us: subscribers, contributors, and supporters. Special thanks to Bill Miller for address labels, to faithful writers like Kenneth Martin, Linda Frick, Martha Wagner, James and Betty Beery and others who helped in this way. Let us know if you have ideas for improving our paper.

Subscriptions expire on the date following your name on the address label. We send no renewal notices because of our mailing method but may underline or write in red the date on an expired subscription.

We welcome articles and poems for *The Pilgrim* but still must reserve the right to print only those selections we judge fitting. We also welcome gift subscriptions and names suggested for free sample copies. If you are receiving *The Pilgrim* free or as a gift, please let us know if you wish to continue as a subscriber.

May God bless His people as we pass to a new millennium.

Leslie and Martha Cover

BIRTHS

JOHNSON - A daughter, Gretchen Mercy, born July 8, 1999, and received by adoption to Kenneth and Karen Johnson of Tuolumne, California, on December 14, 1999.

MARTIN - A daughter, Janna Jewel, born December 20 to Neil and Lois Martin of New Paris, Indiana.

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FOR YOUTH

Another old millennium
Is drawing to a close;
"2000" soon will let it rest
In history's sweet repose.
The hand of time flies swiftly on;
We cannot change its pace.
The past is gone, and what is done,
Is done--it can't be changed.
The future holds, we know not what,
But trust that God is there.
Today we have--perhaps that's all--
For heaven to prepare.
So we must wisely use our time;
Let's make each moment count,
For every action, word, and thought
Goes down in God's account.
And let us wisdom wisely learn
From those who've wisdom learned,
That it may not be said of us
That precious time was spurned.
Joy Royer, Mishawaka, Indiana

RESOLVE FOR NEW MILLENNIUM

"... If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence."
Moses in Exodus 33:15

A booklet on Christian Baptism by Alexander Mack, once made available by Daniel F. Wolf, has again been reprinted and is now available without charge from Kenneth Johnson, 19747 Porto Fino Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379 or from <i>The Pilgrim</i> .

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Showing Off

James and Jennifer came into the house just as Mother hung up the phone. "Aunt Lena is coming to visit us on Thursday," she told the children.

"Oh, good!" Jennifer said. "Aunt Lena can read me stories."

"I'll show Aunt Lena how high I can send my arrows, and then how far I can make them go. She can watch me ride my bike fast, and she can see how I feed those greedy calves that try to knock me over, and I'll show her how fast I can run, and..." James was full of plans.

"Wait a minute," Mother said. "That sounds like you are planning to be quite a show-off, James. It will not make Aunt Lena happy for you to show off. People get tired of show-offs very fast. Please try to enjoy Aunt Lena without impressing her with what you can do."

Thursday finally came, and so did Aunt Lena. "Hello, James and Jennifer," she smiled when they came running to her car.

"Aunt Lena, hurry! Come watch me shoot my arrows!" James forgot already what Mother had told him. Aunt Lena followed James to the backyard and watched him shoot two arrows. Then she turned to go into the house to greet mother. "Aunt Lena, just watch how high I can shoot this arrow," James begged. After that arrow, he said, "Now watch how far this arrow will go!" Aunt Lena watched him, but the smile on her face wasn't as pleasant as it was at first.

Once again, she turned to go into the house. James stopped her with, "Oh, Aunt Lena, just watch how fast I can run. I can run all the way to that tree really fast!" And away he went.

That was enough for Aunt Lena. She went into the house while James was still running to the tree.

When James turned around, exclaiming, "I can run really fast, can't I?" Aunt Lena was not there. What a disappointment to James. Suddenly, he remembered what Mother had said,

"People get tired of show-offs very fast," and he realized he'd been a dreadful show-off, and Aunt Lena had gotten tired of it. Besides, he realized he'd been selfish to keep Aunt Lena with him and not let her even speak to Mother. He hung his head and quietly put his bow and arrow away. Then he went to feed the calves without asking Aunt Lena to watch him. He was even ashamed to go into the house, and decided to forget showing off from now on.

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

Pilgrim--One who journeys, especially in alien lands; a wanderer; traveler; wayfarer; also, especially in religious use, an exile; a sojourner. --Webster's Unabridged Dictionary
 Hebrews 13:14: "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come."

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

PERFECT PEACE

I look not back: God knows the fruitless efforts,
The wasted hours, the sinning, the regrets;
I leave them all with Him who blots the record,
And graciously forgives, and then forgets.

I look not forward: God sees all the future,
The road that, short or long, will lead me home,
And He will face with me its every trial,
And bear with me the burdens that may come.

I look not around me: Then would fears assail me,
So wild the tumult of earth's restless seas;
So dark the world, so filled with woe and evil,
So vain the hope of comfort and of ease.

I look not inward: That would make me wretched,
For I have naught on which to stay my trust;
Nothing I see save failure and shortcomings
And weak endeavors, crumbling into dust.

But I look up: Up into the face of Jesus,
For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled,
And there is joy, and love, and light for darkness,
And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.

--Author unknown

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TOOLS IN GOD'S HANDS

I was going to write on the theme "Lives of true men all remind us We can make our lives sublime," since this is the month of President's Day. This line of the hymn by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is true if we believe in our Savior Jesus Christ and yield our lives to the power of God's Holy Spirit. However, there is an emphasis that I think is needed more in our time, and it is expressed in another hymn: "To God be the glory; Great things He hath done." John writes (Rev. 1:5b): "Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood."

We are human, and one feature of humanity is the desire to be recognized, appreciated, yes, and praised. Even as we recognize our weakness in this area, we know that we are undeserving of praise and recognition. As we grow older, we observe more and more the truth that every good gift is from God. I Cor. 4:7 says, "For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?"

The comparison of people in the hands of God, to tools in the hands of a skilled craftsman fits well. I recall having transmission trouble with the van we used for a school bus as well as our family car. We had had it worked on several times and still had problems. I took it finally to a dear brother, a skilled auto mechanic. He worked on the transmission, and I had no more problems with it. Now I didn't look into his tool box and say, "Socket set, you did a terrific job!" or "Wrench and screw driver, you really know how to adjust a transmission!" No, the praise was justly given to the man who

used the tools with the skill and knowledge he possessed.

Just so, we can not claim credit for any success there might be. God uses men as tools to accomplish His purposes in the world. It is true that not all tools are alike. Some are of better quality. Each tool is made for a specific job. But of all tools it can be said, "They are useless unless someone who knows how to use them picks them up." May we be useful when the Master reaches to pick us up.

Tools have no choice. Here the comparison stops because God has given us the freedom to choose or refuse to obey Him. It is an old debate about just how much choice we have. God is sovereign, and we do not decide or tell Him how to operate. Paul expressed it when he wrote, "Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" We are clay in His hands, and we resist His working at our own peril. But when He says "Whosoever," it means that His offer of grace and mercy is open to all. He gives us choice but not the option to dictate the terms. We cannot choose to refuse to choose or we have already rebelled against Him. May we, as products of our Creator, willingly yield our wills to His supreme goodness. As the hymn says:

O cover with Thy mercy My poor, weak heart!
Let every thought rebellious From Me depart.
Permit Thy child to linger Here at Thy feet,
And blindly trust Thy goodness With faith complete.

May all glory and praise and worship be to our gracious Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. --L.C.

For those nights when the sky is clouded, a bright lantern is put into the wanderer's hand: the Word of God which lights the dark way ahead until the day begins and the morning star rises.

Eberhard Arnold in *Inner Land: Light and Fire*
Selected by Michael Harris

NEW SERIES: BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

Biblical Nonresistance

God knew that for man to have a meaningful relationship with Him, he needed to have a choice, which He gave him. Man's choice to not accept His will has been the cause of earth's misery and suffering for nearly six thousand years. But through all this, God has had a people that have been delivered in all generations.

In the first conflict man had after the fall, God came on the scene and asked Cain, "Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door."

God has proven this statement over and over again. Through an earthly nation He chose to vindicate His power, authority, and holiness, and His displeasure of sinful men. Over and over again sin met them at their door. Because of disobedience, suffering and death were the consequence. We don't understand why all this had to be, but it was God's plan and timetable to bring man to the saving knowledge that would overcome evil.

God used men to destroy one another at His command. This was God's long range plan to redeem men from their sinful nature and to preserve the human race until the fullness of time had come to inaugurate a better way to overcome evil.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent His only begotten Son into the world and brought to the human heart a knowledge that will deliver it from the bondage of sin and evil and has empowered its subjects to love all men unconditionally. But for the man that will not respond to this knowledge--he is still held under the bondage of the physical law and its authority and consequently will perish with it. (Romans 13)

Jesus proved Himself an all-powerful being in control of the natural forces of the earth: sickness, death, evil spirits, etc. All this was impressive to the multitudes, but there was a segment of people who did not appreciate Him and took upon themselves to destroy Him by crucifying Him, not knowing that through this, He would now display the greatest power ever seen by man. This bravery would destroy Satan's power over any man that would put his faith and trust in Him and obey His teaching.

The doctrine of nonresistance was the theme of Christ's ministry. It disarms our greatest foe which is self. It is the only way the peace that Jesus promised can be experienced. It is the only doctrine that will overcome evil. (Rom. 12:21) It is what adorns the fruit of the Spirit with God's blessing.

I remember in growing to manhood that the doctrine of nonresistance was a real security to me. I observed the apostate church that did not hold to biblical nonresistance and all the evils it was confronted with: unfaithfulness in relationships, sins of sodomy, trying to make a better world through political forces, etc. I was thankful to have been taught biblical nonresistance.

The doctrine of nonresistance is, no doubt, the pillar that supports all the doctrines of God's kingdom. It is the final proof of where we stand in God's sight.

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

LOVE

We hear and read the term *love* many times: "Oh, I just love that color;" "I love babies;" "Honey, I love you;" "We must show more love to our fellow man." These are just a few ways we may hear the term *love* used. I believe *love* is one of the most misused words in the English language. Yes, I know

the dictionary gives many meanings to the word *love*, but I believe that to qualify as true love there has to be a certain element of commitment to the expression. The most popular use of *love* seems to be to express a spontaneous emotion toward a person or thing.

I would like to have you think of love as we are commanded to do in the Bible: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." (Matt. 22:37) and "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Matt. 22:39) The apostle Paul instructs men to "love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it." (Eph. 5:25)

I like to think of *charity* as *love in action*. For a description of what true love is, study I Corinthians 13. Perhaps the most profound virtue of love is that it "seeketh not her own." One of the most natural features of any living organism is that it favors the elements that are conducive toward its well-being. In nature this often comes at the expense of other organisms. Our human natures are no exception to this tendency. Consequently, to be able to understand and practice the love Jesus and the apostles taught, there has to be a change in the human mind that supersedes the natural or carnal nature.

Only when a mature mind can comprehend the concept of a fallen nature can the need be felt to seek an escape from this selfish nature which binds humanity in the quagmire of sin. While an unconverted person can extend benevolence and concern, it is not an impulsive act as it should be for a person who is led by the Holy Spirit. Thus to exercise Christian love, one has to be filled with or controlled by the Holy Spirit. The born again Christians are the only people who possess this virtue. Unfortunately, by reason of human weaknesses, we often fail to maintain this ideal standard. Jesus Christ is the absolute standard to focus on when we allow Satan to influence

us to compromise our love for God and our fellow brother or sister.

Let us examine ourselves to see if our primary emotional response is to please God and benefit our neighbor, or does our own pleasure and comfort take priority? It was God's sacrificial love for us that sent Jesus to suffer and die that we might experience and practice this true love which will endure throughout eternity.

Joseph E. Wagner
Modesto, California

CHRISTIANS IN THE WORKPLACE

The workplace is probably the most challenging place for us as Christians to truly present the love of God and our dedication to the principles Christ taught. Of all the areas where we come in contact with unbelievers, it is the area we fail the most in our representation of Christ--where we let down our guard and become less forgiving of the mistakes of others. It is not as difficult to be kind to someone at church as it is when we deal with the same people in the work setting. When our focus is on trying to lift them up, we do not have time to point out their failures and the little things they do that irritate us. Sometimes, we would do well to remember the reason we are on this earth and consider the fact that we are fellow travelers to a heavenly land. If we are continually finding fault with our brethren in the presence of unbelievers, how are we going to witness to them of the love of God? I believe one of the worst things we can do to negatively affect our witness for Christ is to run down others who are honestly trying to follow God's commands. Another is to proclaim a commitment to Christ while we are at church and then to go to work and not live out the principles He taught. We talk about what somebody said somebody did or didn't do,

and then we sing, "Makes me love everybody, makes me love everybody, It's good enough for me."

There are many things we can do to better represent the Christian faith in the workplace. We should stand out in our desire to give the best we have in our service to others, whether it is to an employer or to a customer. We should be noticed for our exemplary work ethic and ability to do all things with a good attitude, whether it is something we like to do or not. That doesn't mean we need to learn to like everything we have to do, but we should be willing to do them when it is necessary, without complaining, either to benefit others or simply because it is beneficial to our business.

When we work for another person, is it our goal to make their business a success, or is it simply a salary that we are trying to achieve? And when people work for us, are we as employers, looking for ways to make our employees' jobs more enjoyable and reward their efforts in the way they are paid? As an employer with employees, it is our God-given responsibility to treat them right and provide fair wages for them, to treat them as if we were in their position. Is it our goal as an employer to get wealthy from the success of our business, partly due to the good work of our employees? Or do we thank God for our abilities and the blessing of good workers and pass on some of the success to our employees? I think it is a shame for an employer who is successful to hoard up the wealth obtained at his business while paying only the minimum wage to those who work for him. By the same token, it is a shame for the employees to give less than their best to the employer who is sharing the benefits of the success of his business with them. It is a blessing when God gives us the ability to own a business; it is an even greater blessing when God gives us employees that have a good work ethic, and we should show our appreciation for this in the way we treat everyone involved. If the employees are looking for ways to improve the employer's success, and the

employer is looking for ways to improve the employees' working conditions and rewarding them for making his business a success, then you will have not only a happy environment and successful business, but most important, I believe you will have the blessing of God.

When working together in the workplace, we must allow for the different personalities of each other. Some are ready to go as soon as the day begins while others take a little longer to get to their full production but are able to remain energetic later in the day. The beauty of the Creator's design and makeup of the human race is their differences. If we allow for this, we can benefit each other immensely. We were not all designed to be creative. Nor were all given ability to plan a project and have a vision of the finished product. Some are content to go to work each day and do their best for another man's dream. Some were born with (or acquired) a desire to fulfill a certain dream or to build a successful business. There is no shame in being unable to envision a dream, and there is no shame in being content to work for another person. In every position, we have the opportunity to be our best and to witness by our actions that we love God and His foremost creation, the human race.

One of the most difficult areas to keep relationships as they should be is when two or more are involved in a partnership or a business with several members of one family involved. With different age groups, it can be even more difficult due to the different stages of life. When one has older children who do not take a lot of time and another has younger children who need more time and attention, there has to be an understanding that, try as they may, they are not going to be as active in the workplace. The one who is busy with children or other priorities needs to be up front with the others and clearly state their inability to spend more time. Otherwise the others involved may not understand or take time to consider the reasons for lack of time spent by them. Work should not come

before our responsibility to rear our children properly lest we too late find we have failed in instilling good things in their hearts. Be honest with others about your priorities and the need you have at home to be with children. If they do not respect your decision, you must not carry a load of guilt around but leave their response in the care of the Lord. It is easy for someone who is particular about the details and making sure they are done promptly to feel they are being taken advantage of when the other one is not even aware of the need. If you want to destroy a relationship that is good into one of bitterness, you simply keep building up resentment each time you do something that you think should be the other's responsibility, and it will happen surprisingly fast. It is also very important that everybody try to stay connected to the day to day responsibilities necessary to keep the business running properly. If people just allow themselves time to do the most pressing things, somebody else ends up with all the extras and feels responsible for every little detail necessary for improvement. I believe if you are in a partnership with someone, you make sure you spend the time needed in the business before allowing yourself time for leisure interests. Remember a partnership or family venture is not for everyone and is never worth ruining relationships, especially among Christians. Communication and an acceptance of the different makeup each individual possesses will go a long way in relieving tensions and keeping a good relationship between everybody involved. Always have love for the others and say kind things so we are not hypocritical when we sing, "When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be!"

There is one more point I would like to make that I feel is important. There is a job out there available for any personality and interest. Though we need to be content with what the Lord has provided and learn to do things we don't always enjoy, there is something that we can enjoy. Work for most takes up a

greater percentage of our time than anything else, and it is therefore important that we can be doing something that builds up and not something that is continually drudgery to us. There is no shame in the fact that we do not enjoy and cannot be successful in something that someone else has been successful in. I believe it is better to do something that has less financial reward and be happy in what you are doing. You will find yourself happier, more likely to be a good witness for Christ, and more desirable to be around. Find something you enjoy, always do your best, and leave the upper management to the Lord. He will provide a good wage.

Sincerely, John L. Beery
Williamsport, Indiana

PRECIOUS GOSPEL HYMN

Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

I have been thinking of this song for some time and was impressed with the first word, *alas*. This word is one we don't use a lot and, after looking up the definition, this beautiful song that I have sung all my life took on a beauty that I had failed to see before. *Alas* denotes remorse, sorrow, anguish, and the realization that this Savior, this Jesus, did bleed and die for you and me. Yes, He did devote His sacred head for miserable, sinful me. It was for crimes that I have done that He endured and groaned upon the cross. Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Savior, died
For man, the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face,
While His dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
'Tis all that I can do.

This last verse certainly illustrates our helplessness, our sorrow, the hopelessness of fallen man. All of our tears and sorrow by itself cannot repay the love of God. But thanks be to God, we can find favor and be in His will by giving ourselves, our all to the one that paid such a high price for my redemption.

In my parents' home as I was growing up, we would sing the first verse and then always follow by singing the chorus:

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day.

This can be real to each and every one of us. We have to come to the cross; we have to see the light, and then we by faith can receive our spiritual sight.

Any of us that have read or heard the wonderful story, *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan surely were impressed by the description of Christian as he gazes up at the cross, his bundle of sin that was so heavy falling off his back and rolling down the hill to be forever buried in the tomb where Jesus was buried. This is where each one of us must come. Jesus paid the price for sin. We can be washed in the blood of the Lamb and be forgiven of our sins.

Paul in his letter to the Ephesians (1:7) says, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Yes, there is sorrow and

discouragement, to think of poor mortal man in a world of sin and unrighteousness without God. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (I Cor. 15:57) Amen.

David Cover
Tuolumne, California

OCCUPIED

Martha in the kitchen, serving with her hands;
Occupied for Jesus, with her pots and pans.
Loving Him, yet fevered, burdened to the brim--
Careful, troubled Martha, occupied for Him.

Mary on the footstool, eyes upon her Lord;
Occupied with Jesus, drinking in His word.
This the one thing needful, all else strangely dim;
Loving, resting Mary, occupied with Him.

So may we, like Mary, choose the better part;
Resting in His presence--hands and feet and heart;
Drinking in His wisdom, strengthened with His grace;
Waiting for the summons, eyes upon His face.

When it comes, we're ready, spirit, will, and nerve;
Mary's heart to worship, Martha's hands to serve;
This the rightful order, as our lamps we trim;
Occupied with Jesus, then occupied for Him!

Lois Reynolds Carpenter
Selected by Betty Beery

Prayer is the Master's key to the Master's door to the
Master's blessings. Selected

NOTE OF THANKS

We as a family together want to thank all who have prayed, shared in letters and in finances, during our time of pain and recovery concerning my accident of August 19. It is so good to be a part of God's family and to experience the love and encouragement during times of need. May God bless you all for this, and thank you again.

The Arnold Bowser Family

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FOR YOUTH

Helpers

"Mama, what can I do to help you?" These are dear words to hear from our little four year old girl. Though she is still small and not capable of doing even the small jobs thoroughly, it's a beautiful attitude and warms a mother's heart. Of course, there's much to do. But what can she do to really help? She doesn't sweep the floor or wash dishes up to standard. The willingness and potential are there, and that is half the job anyway.

"Dear Lord, how can I truly serve?" Do we really want to know how to help in the Lord's Kingdom? Surely God is pleased to hear a sincere desire and see a willing heart. We are such small, failing creatures and cannot do even the simplest

jobs. Oh yes, there is much work to do. We would dream big plans, but God knows just how much we can do, what our abilities are, and how we can truly help. Does the job look too easy? or too hard? God gives to each one a special job, and He doesn't give more than we can bear.

Samuel and Rosanna Royer
Nappanee, Indiana

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Caleb's Prayer

Dear God, thank You for our food, and our cups, and our knives, and our spoons, and our plates, and our forks, and. . ." Two-year-old Caleb was praying before we ate lunch one day. "Bless my mommy and help her to be good, and bless Linda's daddy that died and went to be with Jesus, and bless. . ." He went on and on.

Finally, his prayer ended and we began to eat. "Caleb," I said. "You know my daddy died and went to be with Jesus. We don't need to pray for him anymore because he is all safe now. But we can thank God that my daddy went to be with Jesus, okay?"

Caleb really did pray for my daddy as I wrote above, but I just now made up my answer to him. Had you ever thought about it that once someone dies, we no longer need to pray for them? Nothing can be changed in their lives once they are dead. Ecclesiastes 11:3b says, ". . . if the tree fall toward the south. or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be."

Sometimes we have prayed for someone so long that it becomes habit. Then when they die, it is rather hard to quit praying for them. But if they have lived for the Lord, we can

thank God for taking them from this world of trouble and suffering, and that they are safe from all temptation now.

We need to remember, too, that when we die, there cannot be any changes in our lives after that. So we need to live our lives for God all the time and then we can be with Jesus when we die, too.

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

May we who are pilgrims, conscious of life's varying scenes, learn by faith, our Father, to cling to Thee.

--Peter Marshall
Selected by Sarah Martin

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

GAZE ON THE LORD

Rain falls on the just
And on the wicked too;
Good and bad come to all;
'Twill surely come to you.

What happens when your way
Is filled with peace and rest?
When all goes well
And all of life is blessed?

Do you then look down
And say "Soul, take thine ease"?
Or do you look into His face
With joyful thanks and praise?

What happens when your way
With rock and thorn is spread?
Or clouds o'ertake your path
And fill each morn with dread?

Do you then look down
Into the mud and gloom?
Or do you look into the face
Of Him who died for you?

Through all of life,
Even in fire or sword,
May we glance at our problems,
But gaze upon the Lord!

Lloyd Wagner, Modesto, California

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SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Esther, the beautiful Jewish queen of Persia, faced a decision that could mean death or deliverance for herself and her people. Mordecai, Esther's cousin and foster father, put it straight to Esther: "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this." Not many young women have such a choice to make.

We may think we are far removed from a decision or crisis like this. We have no one threatening our lives. Our government is friendly and even protective of God's people. Though different from Esther's, our time--such a time as this--has life and death issues also. We too have responsibility on our shoulders if we are Christians. Why so? And what kind of time is ours?

In a recent class on spiritual care for hospital patients, we learned that we must be careful how we relate to those with physical problems, for spiritual concerns are usually there too. We simply will not help if we are overbearing, pushing to "convert" them, or pointing out their faults--especially if they are not asking for spiritual counsel. But it is also true that if a patient (or anyone else) is looking for answers or spiritual help, we do wrong to ignore such a desire.

The truth is that we are in spiritual struggles whether we want to be or not. When we choose to follow Jesus, we become His ambassadors, His representatives, His workers. Souls, not just bodies, are at stake.

Esther acted with courage and also with wisdom. It may have been disastrous to accuse Haman before she did. God was

directing but, like us, Esther did not know the outcome. She meekly admitted, "I will go in unto the king which is not according to law: and if I perish, I perish."

What is our time--such a time? Paul described the last days in II Timothy 3 and called them perilous times. In his description of men of these last times, some were examples of physical violence: false accusers, fierce, traitors. But most were spiritually violent men: covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, unthankful, unholy, and much more. Would front page news today bear this out? The poet Longfellow wrote, "And things are not what they seem." On the surface there is peace and prosperity. Food, jobs, communication, transportation, at least in our country, have never been finer. But man's nature remains the same until we come to Christ for the new nature. There are still some wicked Hamans and some proud "kings" to deal with wisely but decisively. We still have need of the Christian armor. We are still called to overcome evil with good and to demonstrate love.

I heard the story of a man in the Vietnam War who, with several others, had completely wiped out a battalion of women who kept coming even under fatal fire. The memory of this was painful beyond measure. A minister told him he had done this in his country's defense, and it was not sin--that he should get on with his life. He was so upset at this counsel that he turned against the church and all involved in it. It was not till years later, when he was in the hospital and encountered a woman who cared, that healing began. She told him she had no way to minimize his grief or imagine its extent but that she was willing to listen. She recommended the Savior and prayed for him. He told her later that every time he saw her, his regard for the church was being restored. Many are hurting today. There is still a need for good listeners who have no personal trophies to win, but will point people to Jesus for healing.

Mordecai told Esther that there would be deliverance from some place, even if she failed to act, but that her life and her father's house would be destroyed. What a responsibility! Today, God's people will come through; there is deliverance. Perhaps there will be suffering or even martyrdom, but there will be victory--eternal life. But what about when we have opportunity to help, and fail? Paul said, "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

There is need for men and women of prayer in "such a time as this." There is need to share the gospel. There is need for encouraging, building, as the Word says--edifying. True love for the brethren as well as love for the lost has never been more in demand. Bearing witness to the truth is vital in such a time as this when TV, the internet, videos and more are flooding the listeners with make believe, violence, and lust.

We are not called to produce results or numbers; we are called to be faithful. Paul said he had planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. As brother Dan Mohler used to say, "It is surprising how much can be accomplished if we don't care who gets the credit."

Faithfulness in our families, faithfulness in the church, faithfulness in the workplace--these are vital in such a time. Are we willing to be involved and let God use us in the issues of our time? May God strengthen our weak knees and faint hearts and make us courageous, wise helpers in His Kingdom. --L.C.

BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

Doctrinal Power

For man to know God and be in His will requires a knowledge of the mind that can relate to His sovereignty with the blessings that sanctify the heart and purify the soul unto unfeigned love of the brethren. When we have attained this knowledge and experienced its blessing, the mind has responded

to doctrinal truths that Christ taught which are the means of grace that can teach all men the way of truth.

The mind is a created mystery. As it enters the world, its only ability is to take nourishment and express discomfort. As the body develops and matures, the mind begins to function in its created Adamic nature. The expression of this is in the acts of the body in behavior and temperament. This needs to be controlled and disciplined by its parents. A child left to himself would never attain God's will in childhood. (Pro. 29:15)

As God has provided means of grace for our children, so has He provided means of grace for adulthood--in giving man the gift of the Holy Spirit and the doctrines that nurture us into His love and likeness--into community and its ordained functions in purity, loving one another as He has loved us.

Jesus, in establishing a kingdom that is eternal, is secure in the power of doctrinal truth. The mind that has conceived and is controlled by this power is proving to a lost and dying world the claim Jesus made of its power. Not in intellectual excellence, but in the power of humble servanthood, in the adornment of peace and holiness, in bearing the image of Christ in the body, declaring that Christ has come in the flesh. "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." (I John 4:2,3)

Satan's efforts to hinder and destroy Christ's claim through deceit and seduction was addressed by Christ and also the apostles. (Matt. 24:24 and I John 2:26) His strategy is to gain control of the mind and appease it in sin and transgression. The evidence of this is in the fruit it bears, and man becomes ensnared and trapped in bondage of its master in fake peace and assurance--claiming God's goodness and blessing in the midst of

sin and misery--venting itself in unfaithfulness and disobedience in doctrinal truths.

The life and teaching of Christ in its entirety is eternal life revealed. His physical life and walk and the doctrines He taught are to be acknowledged and conceived in the mind and acted upon both physically and intellectually. To declare He has come in the flesh is proven by the involvement of our flesh. The doctrine of non-resistance, separation of church and state, and non-conformity are doctrines that involve the flesh and its natural desires.

This devotion to the physical Christ enrages Satan. He doesn't care what we claim with our lips. He no doubt delights in it if our physical devotion isn't involved in our claim because this is what proves who our master is, and Satan is keenly aware of this.

The church, representing the physical body of Christ through community in the ordinances, in the spirit of His love, in the integrity of His righteousness, in purity and faithfulness in the covenants we make, is revealing to the world that Christ has come in the flesh.

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." (II John 7-9)

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling the field as in writing a poem.

Booker T. Washington

SIMPLICITY

The Apostle Paul in admonishing the Corinthian Church writes: "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (II Cor. 11:3) Since the time Satan beguiled Mother Eve, there has been a continuous attack upon the simple word of God. Our present day is no exception. To maintain our focus we must look to the words of our Lord which are reinforced by the entire Scriptures. I maintain that the plain churches must and can uphold their witness by adhering to their position of taking the Word of God as their guide for faith and practice. I often find it beneficial and can gain insight and inspiration by reading what our early church writers wrote regarding God's Word and the plan of salvation. The simplicity of the Gospel's message is easy to understand. There seems to be a temptation to conceive a theory or thought and then search the Scriptures to establish our thinking. Our thinking and teaching should rather be from the careful study of Scriptural context.

"That man is a fallen and a depraved creature, cannot be disputed by any who have a knowledge of his primeval and present state." These are the words of Elder Peter Nead written in 1834. This fallen nature passed upon all people by reason of Adam's sin. (Romans 5:12) The wages or consequences of sin is death. Only God can forgive sin. God, by reason of His infinite love, sent Jesus, who was God in the flesh, to pay this penalty for sin by His death on the cross. We no longer are under the curse of death by reason of Adam's sin, for Adam's sin was atoned for by our Savior whose suffering and death was the eternal atonement for the Adamic sin. By reason of the atonement, the grace of God was extended to all who accept the terms of the redemption plan through faith, repentance, and baptism.

When the repentant sinner comes to the Lord, he will experience the Spiritual birth, redemption from sin, and will be influenced and directed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This *new* life can be fully fulfilled only within the context of a church fellowship--a fellowship which is governed by the Lord through Godly men with the duty to direct, admonish, and instruct the congregation. Yes, I know there are devout people who claim no specific church membership, but just as homeless children lack the blessings of a home, these people cannot fully experience the blessings of God's family.

I encourage you to study Paul's letters to Timothy and read the eleventh chapter of First Corinthians to be instructed in the simplicity of God's order for His people.

Joseph Wagner
Modesto, California

COMPLETE IN HIM

"And ye are complete in him." People outside of Jesus Christ lack completeness, wholeness. So they look in vain in money, power, fame, wives, houses, lands, only to be disappointed time and again. Unless their bands are loosed, and their eyes opened, they will go to the end of their life searching, longing, groping, but in vain. Find your life in Jesus Christ, and you will find fulfillment, purpose, meaning--all that you ever wanted or longed for. No wonder people are empty outside of Him. For He is our life, way, truth, the good Shepherd, the door of the sheep, the bread from heaven, the first and the last, the light of day, the daystar from on high. He is our peace, our hope, our joy and our crown; He is our wedding garment, our righteousness, our sanctification, and redemption; He is our shield and our exceeding great reward. No wonder people are empty outside of Him. He is also a gift that cannot be earned, bought, or deserved. For we are saved by grace through faith;

it is a gift from God. While it is a gift we cannot buy, we must repent and be willing to lose everything in this world to find it. For "ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13) But do not fret over what you may lose in this world; just think of what you will gain: "An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." (I Peter 1:4) You gain peace, joy, and acceptance in our Father's house, where the Lamb is the light, and there is no more curse, through the never ceasing ages of eternity where we will dwell in the presence of pure and perfect love.

Kevin Garber

Twain Harte, California

OLD BRETHREN CHURCH STATEMENT ON NON-RESISTANCE

The Old Brethren Church is one of the Brethren historic peace churches which began as a distinct denomination in Germany in 1708. Throughout our history, in peacetime and times of national conflict, we have taken the stand of non-resistance. Our members could not (for conscience sake) be a part of the military force, even as non-combatants. We believe this is in keeping with our creed which is the New Testament. Jesus taught us: "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." (Matthew 5:44)

We are also instructed to pray for our rulers and submit to the laws as long as they do not conflict with God's laws. (I Peter 2:13-15; Romans 13:1-7; I Timothy 2:1-3) We believe that the church and the state are separate kingdoms, both ordained by God, but governed by different principles and established for different purposes. For the state, Apostle Paul

writes in Romans 14:4 that ". . . he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." But for the church, Jesus says (St. John 18:36) "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

In view of these and other Scriptures, we humbly ask that if the draft is again put into effect, our young man (and young women) be not forced to serve in military operations, but be given alternate service compatible with our convictions. We ask that this might apply not only to our members (who are baptized on their own decision as adults) but also to young men in our congregations who are not yet members, but have convictions of non-resistance, being taught at home and church the principles of peace and are living lives that honor this.

Signed by elders of the Old Brethren Church

Recommended for publication by Kenneth Martin

for the instruction and conviction of our youth.

HYMN HISTORY

Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

"I wonder at your patience. You have told that same thing to that child twenty times," said Samuel Wesley.

"Had I satisfied myself by saying the matter only nineteen times." Susanna Wesley replied, "I would have lost all my labor. You see, it was the twentieth time that crowned the whole."

The Anglican minister of Epworth, England, marveled at his wife's seemingly inexhaustible patience with her nineteen children; he also marveled at her methodical upbringing of the nine she reared to maturity. Her sons John and Charles grew up to become preachers of the Gospel and hymn writers. In his life Charles wrote more than 6000 hymns. We might wonder if

he ever got out of his study, but in fact, most of his life he was a traveling preacher--traveling on horseback. When a horse threw him, he wrote in his journal: "My companion thought I had broken my neck, but my leg only was bruised, my hand sprained, and my head stunned, which spoiled my making hymns till the next day."

When Charles was twenty-eight years old, he made a journey to Savannah, Georgia, as private secretary to General James Oglethorpe. His brother John accompanied them as he planned to serve as chaplain to the colonists. Also on board the ship were twenty-six German immigrants of the Moravian faith. They were going to the Savannah colony to worship God and to sing their hymns without fear of persecution.

That was early January, 1736. A storm overtook the windjammer while the Moravians were on deck singing hymns. The mainsail split. The mast broke in two. The seas pounded over the deck. Passengers ran, screaming, below. The Moravian Brethren didn't miss a note. Spellbound at the calmness of the Germans, John and Charles Wesley clung to the railing. After the storm, John Wesley asked one of the Brethren, "Were you not afraid?" The Moravian replied, "Thank God, no."

On the eleventh anniversary of his conversion, Charles Wesley recalled a remark made by Peter Bohler, a Moravian leader. "Had I a thousand tongues," Bohler had said, "I would praise God with them all." Remembering Bohler's statement, Wesley wrote: Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Jean Martin, Nappanee, Indiana

Information from: *A Hymn Is Born*, by Clint Bonner, 1959 Broadman Press. Used by permission. *The One Year Book of Hymns*, compiled and edited by Robert K. Brown and Mark R. Norton (c) 1995. Devotions written by William J. Petersen. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

THE OLD FISHERMAN

Our house was directly across the street from the clinic entrance of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. We lived downstairs and rented the upstairs rooms to outpatients at the clinic. One summer evening as I was fixing supper, there was a knock at the door. I opened it to see a truly awful-looking man.

"Why, he's hardly taller than my eight-year-old." I thought as I stared at the stooped, shriveled body. But the appalling thing was his face--lopsided from swelling, red and raw. Yet his voice was pleasant as he said, "Good evening. I've come to see if you've a room for just one night. I came for a treatment this morning from the eastern shore, and there's no bus till morning."

He told me he'd been hunting for a room since noon, but with no success. No one seemed to have a room. "I guess it's my face. I know it looks terrible, but my doctor says with a few more treatments. . ." For a moment he hesitated, but his next words convinced me. "I could sleep in this rocking chair on the porch. My bus leaves in the morning." I told him we would find him a bed, but to rest on the porch. I went inside and finished getting supper. When we were ready, I asked the old man if he would join us. "No thank you. I have plenty." And he held up a brown paper bag. When I had finished the dishes, I went out on the porch to talk with him a few minutes. It didn't take a long time to see that this old man had an oversized heart crowded into that tiny body. He told me he fished for a living to support his daughter, her five children, and her husband who was hopelessly crippled from a back injury. He didn't tell it by way of complaint; in fact, every other sentence was prefaced with a thanks to God for a blessing. He was grateful that no pain accompanied his disease which was apparently a form of skin cancer. He thanked God for giving him the strength to keep going.

At bedtime, we put a camp cot in the children's room for him. When I got up in the morning, the bed linens were neatly folded and the little man was out on the porch. He refused breakfast, but just before he left for his bus, haltingly, as if asking a great favor, he said, "Could I please come back and stay the next time I have a treatment? I won't put you out a bit. I can sleep fine in a chair." He paused a moment and then added, "Your children made me feel at home. Grownups are bothered by my face, but children don't seem to mind." I told him he was welcome to come again.

And on his next trip he arrived a little after seven in the morning. As a gift, he brought a big fish and a quart of the largest oysters I had ever seen. He said he had shucked them that morning before he left so that they'd be nice and fresh. I knew his bus left at 4:00 A.M., and I wondered what time he had to get up in order to do this for us.

In the years he came to stay overnight with us, there was never a time that he did not bring us fish or oysters or vegetables from his garden. At other times, we received packages in the mail, always by special delivery--fish and oysters packed in a box of fresh young spinach or kale, with every leaf carefully washed. Knowing that he must walk three miles to mail these, and knowing how little money he had, made the gifts doubly precious.

When I received these little remembrances, I often thought of a comment our next-door neighbor made after he left that first morning. "Did you keep that awful-looking man last night? I turned him away! You can lose roomers by putting up such people!" Maybe we did lose roomers once or twice. But oh, if only they could have known him! Perhaps their illnesses would have been easier to bear. I know our family always will be grateful to have known him. From him we learned what it was to accept the bad without complaint and the good with gratitude to God.

Recently I was visiting a friend who has a greenhouse. As she showed me her flowers, we came to the most beautiful one of all--a golden chrysanthemum, bursting with blooms. But to my great surprise, it was growing in an old dented bucket. I thought to myself, "If this were my plant, I'd put it in the loveliest container I had!" My friend changed my mind. "I ran short of pots," she explained, "and knowing how beautiful this one would be, I thought it wouldn't mind starting out in this old pail. It's just for a little while till I can put it out in the garden."

She must have wondered why I laughed so delightedly, but I was imagining just such a scene in heaven. "Here's an especially beautiful one," God might have said when he came to the soul of the sweet old fisherman. "He won't mind starting in this small body."

All this happened long ago and now, in God's garden, how tall this lovely soul must stand. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. (I Sam. 16:7)

Selected by Ruth Flora, Arcanum, Ohio
and Martha Wagner, Gettysburg, Ohio

MARRIAGE

ROYER -- EBERLY Caleb Royer and Tammy Eberly were united in marriage on February 26 near Nappanee, Indiana.

New address: 63651 C.R. 3

Elkhart, IN 46517

(219) 862-2383

BIRTHS

ROYER - A son, Jared Luke, born February 10 to Joe and Elizabeth Royer of Mishawaka, Indiana.

CONING - A son, Will Stephen, born February 14 to Thad and Suzanne Coning of Goshen, Indiana.

CHILDREN'S PAGE: Bedtime with Joseph

Usually it was just Mother and Joseph who knelt by Joseph's bed for his bedtime prayer. But this night big brother Matthew was upstairs, too, so he joined them. As they were saying the Lord's Prayer together, Joseph stopped and said, "Do you know what you are saying when you say the Lord's Prayer, Matthew? You have to think about each thing you are saying." Then he began to explain each part of the prayer to Matthew.

When he came to "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," Joseph explained it this way. "I think of a big cardboard box labeled 'Temptation' and another big box labeled 'Evil.' I want to stay far away from both of them!"

After they were through praying, Joseph said, "I want to be a child of God right now and be baptized like Timothy was!"

"You can decide now to be a child of God, Joseph," Mother answered. "But for now, God just wants you to be obedient to your parents and keep learning about Him and His Word. As you grow, you will understand more and more of the Bible. When you are older and understand it enough, then you can be baptized."

"Goodnight, Mother," Joseph said. Soon he was peacefully sleeping. Perhaps he dreamed of being a happy, loving child of God's that night.

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

ADDRESS CHANGES

Andrew Cable: 28230 C.R. 42, Wakarusa, IN 46573

Steve Stalter's work phone: (219) 831-4449

Delete Dale Wemken's P.O. Box

VICTORY

God wins! God wins! Praise God, 'tis true!
In trial or pain, He'll see us through.
When dark the way, sing praise; God wins!
Though weak we are, He's strong, God wins!

Though Satan rage, he'll lose. God wins!
Though oft we fail, Christ died for sins.
God wins! What joy the promise gives!
The one who trusts the Savior lives.

Secure in God, why should we fear?
The victory's sure; He's always near.
Soon comes the day; we'll see the Son.
And then we'll sing: praise be! God won!
James Beery, Williamsport, Indiana

PILGRIM POINTERS

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

"How Much Is a Man Worth?"

"To value the worth of man's soul, will you try?"
To God there's great value, a value so high
He gave e'en the blood of His own precious Son;
In no other way could redemption be won.

Made in God's image, man sinned and rebelled;
From the garden of Eden he then was expelled.
Yet hope was still offered, for before earth's foundation,
God had provided a means of salvation.

If something we love, we it greatly do treasure,
How can we the worth of God's gift truly measure?
The *world*--all its souls--He so loved, that He gave
For the price of our pardon, His *blood* to us save.

So, great is the debt that we owe to our Savior!
Is there really a way to be found in His favor?
Yes! He wants me! as a true sacrifice,
My glory, devotion, my love, and my life.

"How much is man worth?" comes the question again,
To God, He's worth dying for! Now we can gain
A joyous eternity, supernal bliss;
How tragic this glorious heaven to miss!

Rhoda Royer, Nappanee, Indiana

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THOUGHTS ON RESURRECTION AND SALVATION

"If a man die, shall he live again?" Job asked a question that is important to every living human being. It comes up in churches, in hospital rooms, and on beds of suffering. Job observed plant life and commented, "For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again." But about man he lamented, "But man dieth and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?" One who does not believe the Word of God is left with these questions; there is no other place to find answers. But if we believe the record God gave, then we know what will become of us.

God didn't leave Job without answers, even in that far away time and place. Job demonstrated strong faith in the power of his Creator. From his misery he could confidently affirm: "Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands." And again: "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

We have the answers God gave Job plus the revelation of how God made it all possible. In one word, the answer is *Jesus*. He is that Redeemer that Job spoke of long ago. The story is the old one of Jesus and His love. Paul declared that He "loved me and gave himself for me."

". . . It is appointed unto men once to die," says the writer of Hebrews. It is a debt we all must pay. An exception is the children of God who are alive when Jesus comes. The important part for us is that we be ready for whatever God has for us. If the promise of resurrection is true, we have nothing to fear. Jesus said, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an

hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." He told His disciples that their time was always ready.

As the seasons change and the beautiful springtime seems to promise another productive year, it is easy to reason that "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." But this is the conclusion of unbelievers. We who believe should be ready for Jesus' return or for our own exit from this life.

Do we know why Jesus died? Do we know why He hung on the cross and was made a curse for us? He didn't deserve that. God would not have allowed His only begotten Son to endure the suffering, humiliation, and curse of a Roman crucifixion without a purpose. He died for us, and evidently there was no other way to rescue mankind from Adam's sin and from the sin of every man besides Jesus Himself. He pleaded, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt."

History tells us about how God gave the law and that it revealed His holiness, and how it demonstrated the inability of law to save. Mankind was (and is) helpless to rescue himself. Even if the law could save, we could not live in it without help from above. But, praise God, we have abundant revelation about His grace, His giving opportunity for man to be cleansed and born anew through the death and resurrection of Jesus. He died for us that He might bring us to God.

The call is still going out: "Look and live." Kneel at the foot of the cross in repentance and let the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse us from all sin. These are actions of our spirits, and God by His Holy Spirit forgives us and gives us new life. The action of the body is to be baptized and openly profess to be God's children. Ananias told Paul: "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." No outward act by itself--neither the

physical application to our bodies of water or even blood can take away sin. But God gives us the outward washing of baptism to signify and demonstrate the cleansing of our souls by Jesus' blood and the coming forth into new life in the Spirit. To me this is the meaning of the command of Peter on Pentecost: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Col. 2:12 says, "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." The operation of God is what makes baptism valid.

Each year at springtime we see a type of resurrection. New growth appears on the trees and ground; flowers give promise of a fruitful season. How is it in our hearts? Have we received new life in Christ? Jesus declared even before His resurrection: "Because I live, ye shall live also."

JESUS

Jesus died that we might live;
Atoned for sin, new life to give.
Jesus lives that we might die--
Die to sin and to Him cry
For help in every time of test
To find relief on Jesus' breast.
Receive Him now as Lord and King;
Let His praises ever ring
In our hearts where life is given:
Saved from sin--our hope in heaven. --L.C.

HEIRS OF THE PROMISE

This booklet by Daniel F. Wolf has now been reprinted and is available for \$3.00 postpaid. It is a 59 page commentary on God's promises to Abraham and the relation of Israel and the Church to the Kingdom of God. Order from The Pilgrim, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

The Two Kingdoms

All human behavior is a revelation of what the mind has conceived and approved. An act of the body can never be performed until the mind has consented to it. The mind is the battle ground between God and Satan, good and evil.

Sin entering in to the human race has come about by Satan's gaining control of the mind. This has created human behavior that requires law and restraint for man to survive. God established the law for this purpose and to make them knowledgeable of His righteousness and sovereignty.

God, in raising a nation to prove Himself, became the dread and fear of all people, using them to destroy wicked nations much larger than they. The nation of Israel was basically the posterity of one man, the patriarch Abraham, and had the connection and blessing of God upon them--as they were called to administer the law and the holiness of God. The history of this nation is stormy. God's wrath was upon them many times for their disobedience.

Through all this, the prophets had revealed to them that some day God was going to send a Messiah that would deliver them from all their enemies. The Old Testament closes with a note of separation between God and the nation of Israel.

The New Testament opens with the coming of the long-expected Messiah. He appears in the geographical center of the kingdom of Israel. He comes as an infant, but is feared by those in control and authority. Satan attempted to destroy Him in infancy, but failed. He grew up to manhood in more or less obscurity, although at twelve years of age, He had some exposure.

Not until manhood did He display powers that intrigued the common people to believe this is the Messiah that would deliver Israel from all their earthly enemies. Men of rank and authority

were troubled. The common people wanted to crown Him as their king; they liked the loaves and fishes, the healing of the body, the demons rebuked, and the dead raised. But with all this, He had no interest in an earthly kingdom or to use an earthly kingdom to promote His cause and for His coming into the world.

Jesus, walking in the flesh, refused to be a physical part of the earthly powers because He knew this would be powerless to transform the heart and mind of men.

Jesus, walking in the flesh, revealed a power that can only be discerned and received through an humble spirit. He taught truth through parables that required total trust and confidence in Him and the powers He displayed. This humble trust in Him was what empowered unlearned men to startle the wise and so-called sophisticated society.

As Christianity at large is claiming the validity of Christ and His mission in all forms of human behavior and also not acknowledging His stand in relating to the earthly kingdoms--this is not proving that Christ has come in the flesh.

Only those that have been delivered from this earthly kingdom have been delivered from its doom and destruction. To prove that Christ has come in the flesh is in fruit-bearing. This can only be attained when the mind has conceived the doctrine of Christ in its fullness--that His kingdom is not of this world--that only through this separation of church and state can the spirit of Christ have freedom in the heart of man. This is the mind of Christ.

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." (II John 9)

Kenneth Martin

Nappanee, Indiana

THE SEVEN LAST SAYINGS OF CHRIST

Man has done many things to try to convey the pain and suffering, the emotional anguish and turmoil He went through. Many books have been written. Many poems have flowed from the pens of compassionate, devout men and women. "The Passion Play" is a popular event. Many hymns have been composed that, when sung, break us down into weeping; especially among loving brethren and sisters.

Happy souls, approach the table,
Taste the soul-reviving food;
Nothing half so sweet and pleasant
As the Savior's flesh and blood.

It is finished!

Christ has borne the heavy load.

In 1801, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) composed adagios that would depict the emotional states of Jesus on the cross and of His audience. Written for string quartet, the music is intense, complicated, and beautiful, accomplishing his goal. His work inspired this writing.

So let's examine these seven last sayings of Jesus. Keep in mind His position when these were uttered.

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Lk. 23;34)

Just as He is our example in everything He taught and did, He is our perfect example in the often-times difficult process of forgiveness. There He hung from the nails in His hands and feet, and He forgave them. They were so engrossed in themselves, their earthly kingdom, their opinions and interpretations, that they did not recognize who He was. Despite the many miracles and the obvious presence of God through Jesus' attitude, life, teachings and examples; they still did not see Him as the Messiah. He had every right to call them "hypocrites," "blind guides," "fools and blind," "ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (See Mt. 23) I am Jesus Christ your Saviour; why can't you see that? But no, hanging on the cross, He humbly and simply forgave them. They were blinded because they expected an earthly king, a great and powerful man.

Jesus has left with us the process of gaining back a brother or sister who has fallen into sin. The purpose is to win them back from their error in love and concern, with an attitude of forgiveness. Peter asked the Lord how often we are to forgive our brother, and the reply was "until seventy times seven," many, many times. As often as they repentantly ask for it. Jesus' compassion ran deep, and He said not only to forgive verbally, but

from our hearts. (Mt. 18) Luke adds, "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him." (Lk. 17:3) We can and should be willing to forgive, but without genuine repentance, forgiveness cannot be effective.

Jesus forgave those who condemned Him to the cross, but until repentance occurred, forgiveness could not be effective unto righteousness. But they were forgiven from their dying Saviour whom they nailed to the cross, forgiven from His ever compassionate, merciful heart! "Oh to be like Thee!"

We have on record the stories of many martyrs who, filled with the Spirit of Christ, followed His example. Why is it so difficult for us, who live in ease, prosperity, and freedom? How powerful and subtle the adversary is! May we walk closer to Jesus, "for when I am weak, then am I strong." (II Cor. 12:10)

"Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."
(Luke 23:43)

This man was a criminal, far removed from God and righteous living. He probably didn't even know the Scriptures. He was a sinner and he recognized that. He also recognized that Jesus was the Saviour, God's Son, and so he humbly pleaded a prayer, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Jesus didn't ask him questions; He didn't call for water for baptism; but they submissively went through the baptism of pain and suffering (a much greater baptism), and finally death, together. "But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened (pained) till it be accomplished!" (Lk. 12:50)

The mother of Zebedee's children wanted her sons to be able to sit on each side of Jesus in heaven. He posed the difficult question then, "Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" (Mt. 20:22) Then He tried to make her understand that the world holds up men above others; rulers do exercise dominion and authority over them; but in God's kingdom it is not so. We are all ministers and servants one of another, just as Jesus ministered and gave His life a ransom for us. (See Mt. 20:23-28.) We are not great; we are all on the same level, feebly following our Master.

The baptism of pain and suffering is the ultimate test of faith to our Lord. It is this that brings us down to the necessary humbleness to effectively and fully serve Him and our brethren. When we go through the death of self, only then are we able and worthy to drink of His cup.

We could consider this the last miracle of Christ before His death. He had saved and cured many others; the blind received their sight, the lame

walked. Then the penitent criminal received forgiveness and eternal life hanging on a cross with Christ at his side.

" . . . He saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son. Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother!" (Jo. 19:26,27)

From that hour that disciple took her into his home to care for her. John understood Jesus' request at once and accepted the trust, providing Mary shelter, food, and comfort from her anguish. What a tender thought that Jesus, hanging there on the cross, thought of His mother to provide for her comfort! He had no money; He had left her something much more precious and valuable. It is interesting that He called her "woman" and not mother, perhaps indicating that He did not want her exalted above any other mother. Earlier He had asked the question, "Who is my mother, or my brethren?" His answer was, "Whosoever shall do the will of God." (Mk. 3:33; Mt. 12:48-50) He looked over His own blood relatives, His mother and bothers, and fixed His gaze on His disciples, those who were doing His will, those who had left all and were following Him.

Even today, compassionate Christians care for one another in this way as much as possible. When the assembly works together, much can be accomplished.

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mt. 27:46; Mk. 15:34)

What a cry of despair and forlornness! There He hung on the tree, bleeding, suffering intense pain, and dying for our sins--burdened with the sins of all men and women though sinless Himself. Forsaken by His Father these last final hours. Christ's life was destined, or spared for this very moment of the final and ultimate sacrifice: the redemption of man. He had been offered vinegar and gall, a mixture which would have dulled His senses and eased the pain. No, He refused it and chose to bear the full load of sin in its pain and suffering and loneliness.

Where sin is, God is not present. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son. . . ." Yes, He loved the world. After all, He had made it and everything contained in it. He had made man after His own image. David was a man after His own heart. But disobedience and sin He abhors and pities the person or people that fall into it. Then there is great rejoicing when repentance is manifested.

Jesus was perfect, without spot or blemish, bearing the image of His Father in heaven, doing His will on earth. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Is. 53:5) "For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather

thee." (Is. 54:7) "For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. But be not thou far from me, O Lord: O my strength, haste thee to help me." (Ps. 22:16-20) Can't we hear God consoling Him: My Son, I am only forsaking thee for a moment I am not far from Thee, that man's redemption may be fulfilled. For this You have been spared; this was Your purpose.

"I thirst." (Jo. 19:28)

And how He must have! What they gave Him seems a mockery, for they filled a sponge with vinegar (sour wine) and put it upon hyssop. Then they raised it to His mouth and He received it. "...In my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink." (Ps. 69:21b) "A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop, and brought it up to his mouth." (Jo. 19:29 NASV) Branches of hyssop were used to sprinkle the passover sacrifice blood of a lamb on the lintel and the doorposts. (Ex. 12:21-28) How appropriate then to extend a hyssop branch to the bleeding lamb of God; the final sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

How He thirsted for the salvation of the souls of men, more than He physically thirsted! Do we "hunger and thirst after righteousness" as passionately as He did? He is our example. (Mt. 5:6) "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (Jn. 4:14) "... He that believeth on me shall never thirst." (Jn. 6:35. Also see Re. 7:14-17)

"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." (Lk. 23:46)

The end is very near; the last three hours have been agonizing. Now He knows the suffering is almost ended. He commends or commits His spirit into His Father's loving hands. This statement was so impressive that a centurion was deeply moved and declared, "Certainly this was a righteous man." (v. 47) "... And having said thus, he gave up the ghost." Oh that we will commend our spirits to Christ!

"It is finished." (Jn 19:30)

"... And he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." Some feel that His head did not helplessly, or lifelessly drop forward, but that He deliberately, purposely, placed His head into a position of rest. He voluntarily "gave up the ghost." It was time; He was in control. He dismissed His spirit into the hands of His waiting Father. This is something we, mere men, cannot do; God calls us when *He* is ready.

Hark! the voice of love and mercy
Sounds aloud from Calvary.
See, it rends the rocks asunder,
Shakes the earth and veils the sky!
It is finished!

Hear the dying Saviour cry.

Not only was it finished, the redemption of man was *fulfilled*! They pierced His side with a spear instead of breaking His legs as was traditional. From His side flowed a gush of blood and water; the blood that cleanses us from all sin and unrighteousness, washes us whiter than snow. What power this is! Blood cleanses us from the *guilt* of sin, whereas the water of the Word cleanses us from the *defilement* of sin, its power. The hymn illustrates this:

Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save me from its guilt and power.

When He died, the veil was rent in twain as prophesied. The earth shook, and there was great darkness over all the earth. The earth was in mourning. It shook of shock and shame of His blood flowing onto it. Everything God had made was affected by this horrible event!

But was it horrible? At the time it seemed so, but we know the whole story, and it doesn't end here! Yes, He was buried in a new sepulchre, but on the third day, He arose from the dead! New life for Him! New life for us!

Today it is finished and we live in this time of grace, living for the second coming of our Lord. Someday soon, this age will be fulfilled. Are you ready?

Conclusion

If I could have been sitting at the foot of the cross, I wonder what I would have thought and felt? What intense emotions! Through study, prayer, and meditation we can experience them in a small way. But it goes far beyond emotions. May these emotions motivate us to a closer walk with Him.

"And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." (Mt. 10:38) The cross is not easy to bear. In fact, we can't bear it without His help. Jesus lightens the load. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find

rest unto your souls." (Mt. 11:28,29) If we take on the yoke of Christ, He is close beside us in the same yoke, helping us along the meek and lowly way. This is the prescription for a life of self-denial like Jesus demonstrated from His birth until His death. Even during the six hours on the cross, He asked nothing for Himself, nor did He complain. "Hallelujah, what a Saviour!"

Seven statements--and we are just entering the seventh millennium. Is this the "It is finished" millennium? Time will tell. May we concentrate on being faithful, shining His joyous light of glory to those around us. "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee." (Is. 60:1,2)

The Last Precious Words of Our Saviour

"Father, forgive them," He pleads
"For they don't know what they do,"
Though for them He suffering bleeds,
This is the King of the Jews.

"Thou shalt dwell today with Me;
In Paradise we will go."
Agonizing on the tree,
His grace and mercy did glow.

"Woman, behold thy Son now;
Son, thy mother comfort give;"
As sweat and blood crowned His brow,
His will and ways we must live.

"Why hast thou forsaken Me?"
A pitiful cry, alone,
Rejected, bruised, He did plea,
Soon to His glorious throne.

"I thirst," He does softly state.
Vinegar soaked sponge is raised;
His lips receive, then He waits.
This the longest of His days.

"Into thy hand I commend
My spirit," to Thee ascend;
Thy cross to some it offends;
My Spirit them will I send.

"It is finished!" work fulfilled,
His spirit He releases.
What love to our souls instilled!
His life on earth deceases.

"Go," He said, teach all nations
To do and obey My will.
With man, peaceful relations;
See Christ; our cross on the hill.

Ron Cable, Williamsport, Indiana

SPRING MEETING NOTICES

Bradford, Ohio April 1,2

Salida, California April 15,16

Warren County, Indiana April 29,30

Annual Meeting Wakarusa, Indiana June 9,10,11

BIRTHS

MARTIN - A daughter, Pearl Dove, born March 8 to Matthew and Sarah Martin of Nappanee, Indiana.

COVER - A son, Adam Jesse, born March 8 to Jesse and Rachel Cover of Tuolumne, California.

COVER - A daughter, Amy Renee, born March 10 to Peter and Denita Cover of Tuolumne, California.

YODER - A son, Bronson Trey, born March 14 to Greg and Kimberly Yoder of Goshen, Indiana.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Danny and Joyce Dingman: 7208 Gettysburg-Webster Rd.
Bradford, Ohio 45308
(937) 447-8334

FOR YOUTH
THE CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

You need the church and the church needs you,
Though Satan whispers that it's not true.
You need a place where you belong,
So that for Christ you can be strong.

You need the church to feed your soul,
So that sin will not take control.
The church needs you to spread the Word;
There's still too many who haven't heard.

You need the church--you need good friends
When life its trouble on you sends.
The church needs you to lend a hand,
Whenever your brother can hardly stand.

You need the church to help you grow
More like Christ while here below.
The church needs you to spend time in prayer
And do your part the work to share.

You need the church for fellowship sweet;
Living without it you're not complete.
The church needs you to fill your place,
Though it is small, it leaves a space.

You need the church to teach you to give,
And not for yourself alone to live.
The church needs you to do your part,
Not with a grudge, but from the heart!

You need the church and the church needs you--
Will you, my brother, then be true?

By Arlene Dueck in *Companions*, February, 2000
Submitted by Mervin Hilty

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Julia and the Truth

"Jooo-l-ya, Joooo-l-ya," Mother called. "Julia, come quickly, please."

In the playhouse, Julia was rocking Dolly. "Mother just wants me to bring jars up from the basement. Then she'll want me to snap beans. Then I'll need to fill the jars. But, Dolly-dear, I just don't have time to help Mother today. I need to rock you to sleep and clean up this little house. And I'll need to start our supper soon. So, Dolly-dear, you go right off to sleep, please."

A knock on the playhouse door, and Mother's displeased voice, "Julia, are you in here?" made Julia stop rocking, but she did not answer. Mother pushed the door open and saw Julia. "Why didn't you come when I called, Julia?"

"Did you call me, Mother?" Julia pretended she hadn't heard.

"Yes, didn't you hear me?" Mother said.

"I've been in here rocking Dolly. She's been crying for an hour." Julia didn't answer Mother's question, so she didn't think she was lying.

"Julia," Mother said, "You are not telling me the truth. It is like you are holding the truth behind your back. You need to get the truth out here in front of you--between you and me. Then we can take care of this matter."

Julia looked unhappy. She sat and stared at the floor for a minute. Finally, she looked up into Mother's eyes and said, "Yes, I did hear you, but I didn't want to come."

"Now, that's better," Mother said. "That's putting the truth out front between us, and we can take care of it properly. You will need to be punished, Julia."

After the punishment was over, Julia skipped beside Mother to the house. She cheerfully worked with Mother all afternoon, and it didn't seem long until the beans were all canned.

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

One stop pilgrims must make is at the foot of the cross of Christ. Christian in *Pilgrim's Progress* found that at the cross his burden of sin rolled away and disappeared into the sepulchre of Christ. He went on weeping for joy and singing:

"Thus far did I come loaden with my sin,
Nor could aught ease the grief that I was in,
Till I came hither: what a place is this?
Must here be the beginning of my bliss?
Must here the burden fall from off my back?
Must here the strings that bound it to me crack?
Blest cross! blest sepulchre! blest rather be
The Man that there was put to shame for me!"

THE PILGRIM
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No. 5

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

I wash the dirt from little feet, and as I wash, I pray,
Lord, keep them ever pure and true to walk the narrow way.
I wash the dirt from little hands, and earnestly I ask
Lord, may they ever yielded be to do the humblest task.

I wash the dirt from little knees and pray, Lord, may they be
The place where victories are won and orders sought, from
Thee.

I scrub the clothes that soil so soon and pray, Lord, may her
dress

Throughout eternal ages be Thy robe of righteousness.

E'er many hours shall pass, I know I'll wash these hands again,
And there'll be dirt upon her dress before the day shall end.
But as she journeys on through life and learns of want and pain,
Lord, keep her precious little heart cleansed from all sin and
stain.

For soap and water cannot reach where Thou alone canst see
Her hands and feet--these I can wash--I trust her heart to Thee.

By B. Rybery in *King's Business*
From Edna Baker's collection

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BEHOLD THY MOTHER!

Jesus' words from the cross committing the care of Mary to the beloved Apostle John sound down through centuries of time, heavy with meaning, bringing responsibility even to our modern generation. To understand the importance of Jesus' words, we need only to consider the agony He was enduring--how difficult it must have been to have breath to speak. It was no time for unnecessary words. In providing for the future care of Mary, Jesus set an example for us all to love and provide for our elderly parents and loved ones.

"Behold thy mother!" means more than *see* or *look at* her. This was Jesus' way of placing the responsibility of her care on John. There was no need for many words of explanation. Jesus' physical strength must have been failing fast. *She is now your mother to love and care for as a son.* From that time John took Mary into his own home.

Today it's different--or is it? Arrange for Social Security and Medicare. Find a suitable care facility where Mother could be with others her age. Make sure the place is well staffed, has maximum security, pleasant gardens of flowers and trees, handy to walk to shopping centers. It should have a modern dining area with good food and good service. Entertainment of some sort should be available every day and there should be the option of a private room or regular nursing type care.

We praise God for facilities of this kind, because in many cases they are needed. Sometimes husband and wife can live together in comfort and pleasant surroundings in such a place. But let us be careful that we do not use a nursing home to substitute for a duty the Lord asks us to bear. I know for sure that many--even in such modern, comfortable surroundings--

would rather be in a home with loved ones who care and who share their faith and hope.

What do our mothers and fathers mean to us? Of course, without them we would not be here. We owe them the debt of love for bearing us, providing a childhood home, teaching us the language, feeding and clothing us. My brother once wrote about our mother: "Without her I would fare badly." Certainly this is an understatement considering the love, the sacrifices, the hardship endured, and hours of labor that a mother invests for her children.

Some children do "fare badly" because many mothers are not good mothers. But I can not say that about mine, and I am sure that most of the *Pilgrim* readers also had good homes with faithful mothers and fathers.

"Behold thy mother!" "Mother's Day" is a good time to take another loving look at that dear person God provided for each of us. Whether she is alive today or not, we owe a debt of gratitude to her. If she is alive, show her your love with more than just gifts and flowers. Tell her and demonstrate that she is precious and appreciated. God's love "shed abroad in our hearts" certainly has a place between child and parents. Make a good home for her in your heart and also in your house if the need is there. If it is a burden to care for an aged mother, remember that this is also temporary. In many of our difficulties, we console ourselves with the assurance that it will not last long. Even a whole lifetime is short in light of eternity.

"Behold *thy* mother!" This possessive pronoun makes it special to each of us. She is ours. We have (or have had) only one. There will never be one with quite the same relationship. These words of Jesus speak of a high privilege, a true love, and a heavy responsibility. May we not miss out on the blessings so available. --L.C.

MOTHER

"A mother may forgetful be."

Yes, human love is frail,
But mine was always good to me;
She never seemed to fail.

Our cares were always her concern;
She sensed our doubts and fears.
She blew our noses, patched our scrapes
And kissed away our tears.

Oh what a debt we owe her love!
Help us, O Lord, to pay;
And live to meet her up above
On resurrection day. --L.C.

BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

Doctrine Defined

Biblical doctrine is its intellectual philosophy. One of the definitions of philosophy is *the general principles of a particular system of principles for the conduct of life*.

Doctrinal truths of the Scriptures conceived in the heart of man is what preserved and declared the will of God in all ages. This has been an unbroken continuity of faith in the lives of men and women ever since Jesus declared His kingdom on earth and assured its security and eternal existence. Jesus invested this in the trust of the human heart by and through the Holy Spirit.

Doctrinal truth, being the security of God's kingdom on earth, is expressed and maintained by and in the corporate faith where men and women become of one heart, soul, and spirit--not through laws and legislation, but by love and faith it becomes the righteousness of God. This is the physical testimony of the living Christ. This supersedes all other human assignments and accountabilities. This is the preservation and

testimony of the living Christ and His kingdom on earth: "Ye are the salt of the earth. . . Ye are the light of the world."

The corporate faith in community fills its spiritual, physical, and social needs. This is the evidence and power of doctrinal truth. This is the gospel message that is to go out into all the world. This is proving the message of salvation by what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Truth has no value until conceived and vindicated. The miracles of Jesus are what made all men accountable to who He is. The miracles of the corporate faith are also making all men accountable to its truths. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (the words of Jesus)

The corporate faith, being the ambassador of eternal truth in a foreign land, bearing fruit that honors the life of Christ, is proving the power of the Holy Spirit secure in doctrinal truth. "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." (Eph. 5:9,10) This is the motto of the corporate faith that ushers it into the joy of the Lord, and becomes the servant of its fellowmen. This is expressed in love and good works--to overcome evil with good, to suffer wrong, to bless its enemies and them that curse it, to do good to them that hate it and despitefully use it and persecute it. It is true and faithful in its covenants. It has overcome the evils of the world's entertainments that stimulate lust and prevailing over one another. It has no desire to gain control of earthly kingdoms or to interfere with its authority.

We have declared what the purpose is for the kingdom of God on earth--and its mission. The need and function of the kingdoms of the earth is also God-ordained, but for a different purpose. It is to govern and preserve a godless society by the discipline of the law. For this to bless and be functional it must be kept in the precepts in which it was given. (Rom 13; I Tim. 1:8-11; I Pet. 2:13-17) Through seduction and false doctrine,

Satan is able to obligate the kingdom of God to assist in governing the kingdoms of this world. Through this theology, the church (so called) has even become a world governing power in history and become a persecutor of true Christianity. The same spirit and society is at work today in defence of the lawless. This is making headlines in the news media. It interferes in God's will for His kingdom on earth. Christ's kingdom is being betrayed. Seduction and false doctrine are the most powerful tool in Satan's hand.

The community of corporate faith that is proving the holiness of God in life and love is the message and the will of God to all the world.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

THOUGHTS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

Romans 3:20

We see that the law cannot justify, for by the law is the knowledge of sin, and when we walk with the knowledge of sin, we walk in condemnation. Also under the law there was remembrance made of sins every year. But now being dead to the law, being married to Christ Jesus, being made free from sin, in its power, its knowledge (that is, walking with the ever-present awareness of sin), and its condemnation, "ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

So we see that the kingdom of God is not is word, (or words alone do not verify the reality of a new creature) but in power, for only by the Holy Spirit can one overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. Also the kingdom of God did not come

with observation (or by the seeing of the eye), "For behold the Kingdom of God is within you." "Whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom."

The King laid aside His splendor, the royal greatness of the majesty of the kingdom. "Made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." He was misunderstood, was thought to have been born of fornication, was thought to have a devil, was forsaken by His closest friends. The sinless one "was numbered with the transgressors." He took all the horrors of death for sin for all who would believe; then went back to glory to intercede for us. Shortly after, He sent the Holy Spirit to fill His followers, which is the kingdom of God within.

So we see the kingdom did not come with observation. For the King was present only by His Spirit in the hearts and lives of His people. The true Jew is now an inward one, whose praise is not of men, but of God.

As the King was greatly misunderstood, so also His people are greatly misunderstood. Those who are born of the Spirit are misunderstood by those who are born of the flesh. But someday soon there will be a marriage of the King and His bride, His body, His people, the church which is written in heaven.

So, as the law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ Jesus the King, now that we are married to Him, God forbid that we should leave Him and go back under the school master: under the weakness of the flesh, the condemnation of the knowledge of sin, and the oldness of the letter. "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Kevin Garber

Tuolumne, California

A THANK YOU NOTE

We were quite surprised at the outpouring of compliments and good wishes from our friends over our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We wish to thank everyone for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

We want to recognize that our fifty good years together are not the result of our capability or clever management, but God has been gracious, and we want to give Him all the credit.

It humbles us to realize that many of you have had more than fifty years together and we have neglected to remember your anniversary dates.

Thank you again, and may God bless you richly.

Harold and Mary Ellen Royer

BAPTISMS--California Congregation

Mary Wemken and Darcy Brown--April 30, Salida, California

We pray that these dear young sisters may faithfully serve in the Kingdom of Christ.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Wakarusa, Indiana, June 9,10,11. All are welcome to these meetings.

MARRIAGE

ROYER--CASTLE Joel Royer and Leanne Castle were united in marriage on April 22 at Dallas Center, Iowa.

New address: 64714 C.R. 17

Goshen, IN 46526

. THAT "FRIENDLY" WORLD

Can I take part with those
Who nailed Him to the tree?
And where His name is never praised,
Is there the place for me?

Nay, world! I turn away;
Though thou seem fair and good,
That friendly, outstretched hand of thine
Is stained with Jesus' blood.

If in thy least device
I stoop to take a part,
All unaware, thine influence steals
God's presence from my heart.

I miss my Saviour's smile
Whene'er I walk thy ways
Thy laughter drowns the Spirit's voice
And chokes the springs of praise.

Whene'er I turn aside
To join thee for an hour,
The face of Christ grows blurred and dim,
And prayer has lost its power.

Farewell. Henceforth my place
Is with the Lamb who died.
My Sovereign! While I have Thy love
What can I want beside?

Thyself, blest Lord, art now
My free and loving choice,
In whom, though now I see Thee not,
Believing, I rejoice.

One of Brother Daniel Wolf's favorites
Author unknown

HYMN HISTORY

Let the Lower Lights Be Burning

Born in Pennsylvania in 1838, Philip Bliss was raised in poverty. In his teens he worked at a country sawmill for ten dollars a month. In his early twenties he married, bought a ramshackle buggy and a horse he named "Fanny," and went about the countryside with his wife, teaching music. He was tall and robust with a winning personality, genial manner, and a rich baritone voice. He wrote a number of songs we still sing today including "Wonderful Words of Life," "Almost Persuaded," and "Hold the Fort."

One night Bliss listened to evangelist D. L. Moody tell of a shipwreck on Lake Erie, just off the harbor at Cleveland, because the lower lights along the coast had gone out. "The Master will take care of the great light," said Moody in referring to the main lighthouse, "but let us keep the lower lights burning."

The following night Philip Bliss sang a new hymn for which he had written both words and music. It is found in hymnals around the world today:

Brightly beams our Father's mercy
From His lighthouse evermore,
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.

Chorus: Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save.

After a visit with his mother in Pennsylvania, Philip and his wife were returning to their home in Chicago when their train

plunged through the trestle, caught fire, and carried a hundred passengers to their deaths. The powerful singer tore his way from the burning cars. Unable to find his wife, he went back, and in a vain effort to save her, died at her side. He was thirty-eight years old. His trunk was salvaged, and in it was found an unfinished hymn. It began: "I know not what awaits me, God kindly veils my eyes."

Information from: A Hymn Is Born, by Clint Bonner. 1959 Broadman Press. Used by permission.

Jean Martin

Nappanee, Indiana

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

(Starting with this issue we hope to print occasionally, articles on Christian schools for teachers, students, and parents. We believe schools are a vital part of our communities and deserve attention here. --L.C.)

Diverted Attention

As teachers we know how easily students' attention can be diverted by the passing of a truck, the buzzing of an insect, or the antics of a fellow student. As a result they miss part of the lesson.

In a much more serious way, our teaching can be diverted from God's truth and His glory by the profound teaching of philosophers and the dazzling accomplishments of men. If we are not careful, a science lesson on the marvels of the atom may include the findings of Ernest Rutherford and the theories of Niels Bohr without giving credit to the God who designed the atom and who alone understands its true structure. Huge textbooks have been written about areas of science that give not one word of credit to God. The epitome of the world's approach to history was expressed at the event of man's first step onto the moon: "That's one small step for a man, but a giant leap for mankind." In every area of education, man gets the credit and the ability of man is praised.

Public school education is not just missing Bible reading, prayer, and God's moral absolutes, but it is saturated with diverted attention to the exaltation of man and a secular view of the natural world. And so children are raised to glory in men and trust in themselves and other men instead of worshipping and trusting the Almighty God. Are these diversions planned or unplanned?

If we do not want another to see something, we may deliberately divert his attention by placing an attractive object in the opposite direction. Satan is a master of diverting attention. At a time of the year set aside to commemorate Christ's birth, mythical Santa Claus gets the world's attention. The mythical Easter Bunny diverts attention from the resurrected Christ. The coming of the year 2000 should have brought much attention to the coming of Christ from which our years are intended to be numbered. But the world gave very little attention to that greatest of all historical events. Instead, a possible Y2K problem, the past achievements of man, and the great future we can expect science to make possible has been the focus of the world's attention.

These are just a few examples of how Satan has diverted man's attention from God and the real issues of life. The realm of education is a prime target for diverted attention since it influences the thinking of the next generation.

If we as Christian teachers do not steel ourselves against the diverting allurements of man and his achievements, we will be educating our children's attention away from instead of toward God. At such a time when the foundations are crumbling in the worldly society around us, we are called to build walls of character and conviction upon the solid rock of God's enduring truth.

By Lester E. Showalter in
C. M. T. I. Newslines

FOR YOUTH

Submission

Submitting seem like it's one of the hardest things for carnal human flesh to do. I believe this is because submission is the outward form of inward humility.

What is submission? To whom am I to submit? And to whom do I look for a perfect example of submission?

Submission is defined as being under obedience, to put under, and to subdue. It is because of this definition that I think that outward submission is inward humility. To submit means to subdue pride so that we can serve as unto Christ.

To whom are we to submit? I cannot think that one could be able to submit to anyone in a scriptural way without first submitting to God. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." It is no mystery why the Apostle put the idea of submitting to God together with the idea of resisting the devil. It takes the act of subduing sin to be able to humble ourselves so that we can submit to God. ". . . Not my will but thine be done."

We are also to submit ourselves to God's servants. Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls. . ." Oh, how terrible it would be for one to fall out of the way because of lack of submission to the church and ministry!

We are also asked to submit to the older, more experienced brethren, as I Peter 5:5 says: "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. . . for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." This verse directly proves the correlation between humility and submission. A sad but common plight is when the older, more experienced are replaced by younger, inexperienced men. This is exactly what happened in Rehoboam's day. And the consequences were dire!

In I Corinthians 16:15-16, is another command to whom we are to submit: ". . . (Ye know the house of Stephanas. . . and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) That ye submit yourselves unto such. . ."

These goals for Christian humility and submission seem quite impossible and, indeed, without Christ we can do nothing; yet, when compared with what Christ has done, it seems insignificant!

In Philippians 2:8 Paul writes of Jesus that "Being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Even though this verse does not use the word *submit*, I believe it carries the very message of submission in it, in its greatest, fullest meaning. Can you imagine the submission it would take, as God Almighty, to come down to this earth in the form of a man, and to be killed in the most degrading way by sinners?

I believe this takes away any excuse to say that submission is too hard or not possible. We must do all for the One that did all for us.

Let us strive to practice deeper submission.

Calvin Johnson

Tuolumne, California

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Paul Royer 25743 St. Rd. 119
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CHILDREN'S PAGE

Two Friends

"Let's ride bikes," Joanie said to her friend Susie. "It is a sunshiny day, and we'll have fun."

"Okay, let's," Susie answered. "But I don't know how to ride much yet."

"I'll help you learn. Come on," and Joanie and Susie ran out the door.

Joanie stood Susie's bike up and held it for her while Susie got on. Susie grabbed the handlebars and began gingerly pedaling. Joanie let go, and Susie wobbled away. "Help!" Susie yelled in fright. Then she tumbled.

Running to her, Joanie kindly said, "I KNOW it is scary, isn't it? Here, I'll run along beside you and hold you up until you can balance better. Ready? Here we go!"

At the end of the driveway, Joanie said, "Let's go back now. You did really well, and you'll soon learn." Up and down the drive they went. When Joanie's legs were about too tired to run anymore, Susie suddenly took off on her own. "You did it!" shouted Joanie. "You did it! Now we can ride together!"

"Let's ride bikes," said Cheryl to her friend Sheila.

"Okay, let's," said Sheila. "But I can't ride very well yet."

"Come on," and the two girls ran out the door. Cheryl hopped on her bike quick as a flash and went racing up and down the driveway.

Sheila took her time getting onto her bike. She carefully began pedaling. Wobbling from side to side, she yelled, "Help!" and tumbled.

"Scaredy-cat!" yelled Cheryl. "Can't you ride a bike any better than that? Look at me go!"

Very soberly, Sheila untangled herself from the bike. She walked the bike back to the garage and put it away. Into the house she went, with tears in her eyes.

Yes, Sheila did learn to ride a bike, but not while Cheryl was there.

Which friend are you? The one who encourages and kindly helps? Or the one who scorns and goes on with your own life?

Linda Frick

Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

If we are truly pilgrims, we should not be upset or resentful at the thought of leaving our homes or farms here. Remember: "In my Father's house are many mansions." And: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things. . ." -L.C.

THE PILGRIM
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THE PILGRIM

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No. 6

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

A FATHER'S PRAYER

Dear God, my little boy of three
Has said his nightly prayer to Thee;
Before his eyes were closed in sleep,
He asked that Thou his soul would keep.

And I, still kneeling at his bed,
My hand upon his tousled head,
Do ask, with deep humility,
That Thou, dear Lord, remember me.

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy dad
That I may lead this little lad
In pathways ever fair and bright;
That I may keep his steps aright.

O God, his trust must never be
Destroyed or ever marred by me.
So, for the simple things he prayed
With childish voice so unafraid,
I, trembling ask the same from Thee;
Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember me.

Author unknown
From Edna Baker's collection

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MOW AROUND THE OBSTACLES

I like to mow. It is satisfying to see improvement--to see shaggy grass cut to show a smooth, even yard. It indicates care and order, attributes of the church of Jesus Christ. In a field, mowing produces hay or combines grain for food, another blessing God gives His people.

Yes, mowing is enjoyable. But in these hills there are obstacles to mow around. In the field there may be rocks or trees; in the lawn it is flower beds, shrubs, or rocks. The problem is to mow around the obstacles without wasting too much time, yet producing a neat appearance after the job is done.

Yesterday, as I mowed both in the field and in the yard, it occurred to me that here are similarities to our Christian experience. Let us make a few comparisons.

Obstacles take time. We like it better when life goes smoothly like the straight areas where we mow. When we meet a tree we need to slow down and carefully go around on all sides. Sickness, accidents, car trouble, unexpected visitors or expenses all intrude somewhat in the smooth progress of our Christian life. They are good for us in that we examine our lives and evaluate our progress and priorities.

Obstacles take extra work. That light bulb needs to be replaced. That back left tire needs air. I had a flat on the front tire of my tractor, and I could not get the weight separated from the rim. It weighed about as much as I do, and it took some work to handle and some time. At the tire shop after it was repaired, a stocky man about my age (another customer) grabbed it and loaded it on my pickup almost by himself. I thanked him and protested that he need not have made that

effort. His reply reminded me of an important truth: "What are we here for anyway?"

Obstacles make us aware of our need for God's grace and for faith on our part. When life flows smoothly, we sometimes take it for granted and forget how dependant we are on our Heavenly Father. One preacher asked, "Where does your faith grow? On the mountain top? It doesn't take faith to survive there. But in the valleys when things aren't going so well is when we appreciate God's grace and our faith grows. God gets glory when we are faithful in adversity--especially if someone is looking on."

So obstacles are really valuable to us. They drive us to our knees, and we come through stronger and more patient. Romans 5 says we glory in tribulation "knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Patience, experience, and hope can all be the benefits of troubles and trials.

Experience certainly is useful in mowing around obstacles. It is just as valuable in meeting problems in our Christian life. The skill in dealing with our spiritual hurdles often is no more than being able to commit the problem to our Savior. He has promised to never leave us, and "He knows the way through the wilderness."

The Israelites' beginning their journey from Egypt to Canaan is often compared to our own exodus from the bondage of sin to liberty and salvation in Jesus Christ. You remember that they encountered an obstacle when they came upon the Red Sea. To their dismay they saw the Egyptian army pursuing from the rear. The sea seemed an impossible barrier to their flight. They cried out to the Lord. Some complained and blamed Moses for the whole project which seemed doomed to disaster. Moses told the people, "Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the

Lord." When Moses called upon God, He replied, "Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward. . ." He told Moses exactly what to do and what would happen.

God has not changed. He still delivers His people when they cry to Him. It doesn't mean that the obstacles will be removed from our path, but He will help us through or around or above any hindrance to our spiritual progress. Our part is to have "patient faith" and trust our Guide. The hymn says:

"To patient faith the prize is sure,
And all that to the end endure
The cross shall wear the crown."

The message to Smyrna, burdened with the obstacles of tribulation, poverty, and persecution was "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." --L.C.

TO OUR YOUNG FATHERS

Mothers may receive more attention on Mother's Day than fathers do on Father's day. Some think that only our heavenly Father is worthy of that honor. However, children are to honor their parents. And I believe it is not wrong to speak of the awesome responsibility resting on fathers in our time, and to give recognition when this responsibility is discharged well. Many fathers of our day are leaving the training of children, and even the spiritual leadership in the home, up to the mothers. It is not uncommon to hear of a mother or grandmother especially remembered for her godliness. This is good but where are the men who are given the position of leader under Christ? We have godly fathers among us, and we encourage them to be faithful in the responsibilities God has given.

In I Thessalonians 2, Paul reminds his readers how he had behaved among them: holily, justly, and unblameably. He was not deceitful, not flattering, not covetous, but gentle and even self-supporting. He was a good example. In this context, he

has some indirect counsel for fathers in verse 11: "As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children."

Paul uses three verbs here to describe how a father encourages his children. *Exhort* means to invite or invoke or implore or even to urge earnestly. Fathers have authority over the children to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." It will be effective when that authority is exercised earnestly and lovingly by *exhortation*.

Comforted. So often the comforting is left almost entirely to the mother with Father remaining more aloof. Children need lots of comfort for their many hurts and adjustments they make through life. If a young child is not familiar with approaching his father, he may not turn to him for direction in the teens either. A good father comforts his children.

Charged. This speaks of good teaching and of placing responsibility. A father can charge his children by words but also by example. Children need a firm hand, and should not be required or allowed to make decisions beyond their ability. Part of good training is expecting response and respect.

As a grandfather I appreciate the diligence I see in our fathers with young children. You young fathers are in the heat of the battle in a time when Satan is attacking the family as never before in the history of the world. Using your place as leader in the home is one of the best weapons against him.

I would encourage fathers to continue to teach with authority and love, and to know exactly where their children are and what they are doing, as much as possible. We can become so involved in our work or in conversation that sometimes children are allowed to play without much supervision. They need a good example like the Thessalonians needed the example of Paul. They need our love and attention. May God bless all of you fathers as you train your children for the Kingdom of God. --L.C.

BIBLICAL DOCTRINES: Eternal Security

Security is a philosophical instinct and desire of all living creatures, even the animal kingdom. It is God's will for all life--that it would be secure and at rest--secure in respect to its Creator and fellow living things.

In the beginning there was no need of fear or of being insecure, but when sin entered the human heart, this changed. Man's first response to his Creator revealed this when he said, "I was afraid." This proved an instinct of insecurity. Even the animal kingdom is suffering for their part in it. They also have an instinct of insecurity and are in bondage to man ruling over them. (Gen. 9:2) This will be removed some day. (Isa. 11)

The effort to attain security in life generates one of the greatest businesses on earth. For most of society, security is the first concern; insurance premiums cannot become delinquent. The moment of delinquency there is no security. Then at its best it is quite often not sufficient.

Man's greatest need is to be secure in God's will. God has provided a means of grace that all men might experience the blessing of being secure. When this has been perceived in the heart, then all other securities become of much lesser importance.

Jesus is the physical act of God's grace that has appeared to all men. He is now the evidence of God's power through the Holy Spirit for man to prevail over sin and evil. But this was not enough to secure our salvation. When He submitted in giving His life, the gates of hell began to quake, but when He rose from the dead, hell lost its prey, and He forever secured eternal life for those that put their faith and trust in Him--declaring this by being obedient to His word.

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of

eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Heb. 5:8,9) We believe that eternal life, secured in a blessed hope, is the uniqueness of the Christian faith; and it is expected that all believers would have this. But how to express this that would bless, influence, and convince our fellow men is our concern. Many claims of salvation with words don't impress us. Maybe it's because the Word says, "The kingdom of God is not in tongue or word, but in deed and in truth."

We are convinced that the man that has salvation is declaring the image of Christ in his physical behavior, and by this shall all men know who he is. We believe that eternal salvation declared by much of Christianity through history has been one of the most destructive forces of the Christian faith. It has become all the carnal man can think and conceive. This has all come about by Satan's method of warfare through seduction and false teaching. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." This text is used to defend unconditional eternal security--claiming that faith in God's grace is the ultimate expression of salvation and to emphasize works would annul grace.

We believe it is possible to have good works and not have salvation. (I Cor. 13) We also believe it is impossible (unless there is not opportunity) to have salvation and not have good works. (James 2:17)

Jesus is God's grace. When we have Jesus, we have salvation. The expression of salvation is bearing His image. To bear the image of Christ is the only valid testimony of eternal security. To bear the image of Christ removes all doubt of who one is. This alone will declare eternal security that is irrefutable.

Kenneth Martin,
Nappanee, Indiana

WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE

"Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." (Dan. 5:27) Ominous words indeed, especially when written on your palace wall by a mysterious hand during a drunken party! King Belshazzar was truly and justifiably frightened by this experience. This proud king no doubt experienced true self examination when the prophet Daniel interpreted this hand writing. The patriarch Job said (31:6), "Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity." In God's plan, whether it be physical, intellectual, or spiritual, nothing can be out of balance with His divine plan without being corrected or accounted for.

Only perfection is acceptable by God. Any imbalance must be corrected. Anyone who makes or repairs high speed machinery knows the importance of balance. It is very annoying if not unsafe to drive a car with unbalanced wheels. In business we need to balance our financial records. A diet that does not have the proper balance of nutrients can be corrected by removing or adding the proper amount to offset the imbalance.

Maintaining our relationship with God and the church members may be a little different. The most beautiful example of balance is a church fellowship where all members assume their responsibility and in love serve the Lord and each other. Even in our family life, if one person shirks his duty, it means extra work for someone else. This principle holds true in all that we do. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17)

Sin is the primary weight that throws our lives off balance. Sin is the transgression of God's law, and one of the important commandments is "to love thy neighbor as thyself." When this commandment is transgressed by the sin of selfishness, the exercise of selfless love can most often regain the balance of

fellowship. "Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them." (Psalm 119:165)

We can be thankful that God sent Jesus to earth, that He paid the price for sin by His death on the cross that we may have the means through His Holy Spirit to correct the imbalance that Satan's beguilement has thrown humanity into. When we accept Jesus as our Savior and follow His commandments, we can be weighed in the balances and not be found wanting.

Joseph Wagner
Modesto, California

OLD BRETHREN ANNUAL MEETING

Imagine with me. . . It is the mid 1700's. There are many Brethren from Europe in the new land (U.S.A. now). Compared to Europe, many parts are sparsely populated and life is primitive. Many have come here to escape religious harassment.

A few years ago, a man named N. L. von Zinzendorf caused a stir among the Pennsylvania Germans. He wanted to unite all the German speakers into one great "church of God in the Spirit." Since this would entail union with those who practise infant "baptism" and other practises not according to the doctrine of Christ (although some of us attended his meetings), we saw this as simply erecting the old Babel again.

So here we are gathered together on this warm Friday morning before Pentecost. What better time to hold a brotherhood meeting than at the time of the coming of the Holy Ghost on the Church?

We see elders from afar. We all are able to gather in the house. The air is thick with the smell of wood smoke, and through open shutters birds can be heard singing their morning praises. Meetinghouses have not been in general favor amongst

us, so we prefer to meet in homes as did the New Testament believers. After all, our Brethren faith seeks to be the faith held by Christ and the apostles.

A brother lines a hymn by Brother Peter Becker. It is a hymn of encouragement to poor pilgrims. We are German-speaking people, so of course, everything is conducted in that language.

In the afternoon a general Brotherhood council is held. This year we are concerned about problems in our American colonies, especially its effects on us as defenseless brethren of the Lord.

On Saturday evening, wax tapers softly glowing, we follow the example of our Saviour and wash one another's feet, eat His supper, and partake of the bread and cup, and sing a closing hymn. Sunday afternoon the brethren disperse, and once again the Old Brethren (The Brethren in those days often referred to themselves as "Old Brethren.") have been blessed in the annual meeting, and a good spirit prevails.

A Brethren Annual Meeting

Time has changed many things. Today Brethren are gathered in several different places because of division. Some fly through the sky or zoom down asphalt roads at 70 m.p.h. to get there. Food is cooked by electrically powered stoves and cookers. Clothing in the Brethren's order is often dark colored and made of synthetic fibres. Evening lovefeasts in most places are illuminated by electric lights, and ceiling fans help erase discomfort created by the heat of nature and large crowds. Soft-spoken brethren are easily heard with the aid of public address systems.

But yet, even with the encroaching impersonal and alienated culture, things are the same. Hopefully a good spirit of love, goodwill, and peace prevails, cutting through the artificiality of an electronic age. Evening services of Communion and traditions surrounding it have changed little, and Brethren,

united in a common bond, take comfort in "one more time" surrounding the tables. Hospitality is everywhere evident. *And Jesus Christ is the same Lord as He was then, and we know His power in our lives and midst. And that is what holds us together!*

History

The origin of annual meeting among the Brethren is obscure. Historians often refer to 1742 as the correct (or accepted) date. But this is somewhat debatable. Henry Kurtz believed 1723 to be the time, based on various reasons which to this writer appear valid. Given the simplicity of organization and lack of record keeping among the early Brethren, Kurtz's date can be shown to be reasonable by a look at the present day among the Old Brethren. One hundred years from now historians may suggest that annual meetings among us ceased--except for notices given yearly in the Pilgrim. (There was no publication like this in those days.) And this would be because of lack of records.

However, we do know that around 1742 meetings on an annual basis (Earlier ones could have been irregular and as the need arose.) became common. The reasons alluded to in the first part of this article (dealing with Zinzendorf and the Moravian Brethren) may have been the energy behind organizing a regular meeting. Eventually, if not at first, these meetings came to be held at Pentecost, so rich in meaning to the early Brethren.

Until 1847, these meetings were held in a way not unfamiliar to our Old Brethren readers. Typically the Friday morning service was followed by a council of the brethren present, with Lovefeast or Communion on Saturday evening and the meeting dismissing in the afternoon of the Lord's Day. In 1847 this changed in favor of the present practise among the Old German Baptist Brethren: holding Lovefeast before council. Today their meeting is also a day longer, and to our

knowledge, the largest single gathering of "plain people" in the world, usually numbering several thousand.

The first minutes on record date 1778. At first rather simple in nature, as years went on they gradually took on a somewhat different character and became more like church "laws." Inevitably for Brethren whose stated belief is that the New Testament is their only rule of faith and practice, this has caused considerable trouble (even to the present time) over how these minutes are to be viewed. Whether these minutes are advisory or obligatory has been a question at past meetings, and has been answered both ways. However, only as late as 1861 was the request granted to print a collection of annual meeting minutes. Brethren were beginning to think differently than they had in the days of Mack and Becker!

Also notable is the development of Annual Meeting organization. What had originally been a simple meeting of elders for purposes of encouragement and unity, gradually became an elaborate organization of clerks, moderators, delegates, and committees insuring a strict organic unity and physically regulating it. The change was from a simple New Testament brotherhood to a Protestant denominational mode--albeit unique.

By 1881 issues had become so heated among the Brethren that major schism erupted, resulting in the Old Order, Conservative, and Progressive branches. The lines in those early years of the divide were often crossed until definite boundaries between the groups developed. Although contending (and we think rightly so) for the "ancient order of the Brethren," the Old Order branch continued annual meeting in much the same manner, although district meetings were discontinued.

By 1913, issues were again causing strife in the Old Order fraternity. The group withdrawing called themselves "Old Brethren," charging that annual meeting was lax and allowing

carnality and pride. One point of contention was also the elaborate organization of annual meeting. The Old Brethren held out for the simplicity of church government the early Brethren had maintained. At the present time, annual meeting among the Old Brethren is more of a time of fellowship and edification. (to be concluded)

Michael Harris
Goshen, Indiana

IF GOD FORGOT

If God forgot the world for just one day,
Then little children would not laugh and play;
Birds would not in the woodlands sing,
And roses would not beautify the spring.
No gentle showers throughout the summer long,
No autumn fields to cheer the heart with song,
No rising sun, no moon to give its light,
No placid lake reflect the stars of night,
No friend to help us on the toilsome road,
No one to help us bear the heavy load.
No light to shine upon the pilgrim way,
No one to care or wipe the tear away.
No listening ear to hear the lost one call,
No eye to see the righteous battler fall.
No balm of Gilead to dull the throbbing pain,
No one to comfort and the heart sustain.
Millions would die in unforgiven sin
With none to bring the lost and straying in.
Yea, this great universe would melt away
If God forgot the world for just one day.

By Elizabeth Oldengarn
Selected by Janice Royer

BIRTHS

BEERY - A daughter, Heather Elaine, born May 1 to Stephen and Kim Beery of Williamsport, Indiana.

CABLE - A son, Wesley Aaron, born May 6 to Aaron and Arlene Cable of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

FLORA - A daughter, Cheyenne Desirae, born May 12 to Derek and Racine Flora of Nappanee, Indiana.

BOWSER - A daughter, Kendra Kristina, born May 14 to Allen and Rhoda Bowser of Harrison, Arkansas.

STALTER - A son, Moses Jethro, born May 28 to Stephen and Lorinda Stalter of Nappanee, Indiana.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Joel Royer's phone (219) 537-8147

The Old Brethren Christian School in California needs a teacher. For more information call Joe Cover (209) 928-3756, Jerry Cover (209) 928-3442, or Ben Cover (209) 928-4036.

PILGRIM POINTERS

Holy Spirit, faithful Guide, Ever near the Christian's side,
Gently lead us by the hand, Pilgrims in a desert land;
Weary souls for e'er rejoice While they hear that sweetest voice
Whisper softly, "Wanderer, come

Follow me, I'll guide thee home. --M. M. Wells

The Holy Spirit who came in power on Pentecost has guided the Church for nearly two millennia. He is the same today and will guide honest pilgrims when they put their trust in Him --L.C.

CHILDREN'S PAGE: God Made. . .

"Mmmmm, I smell something sweet." June said as she and Mother walked past the lilac bush. "What is it, Mother?"

"It's the lilacs," Mother answered. "Here, smell this nice big cluster."

June sniffed and sniffed. "It smells so good!" she said. "And it is pretty, too!"

"Let's look at this lilac a bit," suggested Mother. "How many little flowers are in it?"

June started counting, "One, two, three. . . eighteen, nineteen, twenty. What comes next, Mother? Twenty is as far as I can count, and there are so many more to count!"

"Yes, there are," Mother agreed. "It would take a long time to count them, so I won't take the time now. Aren't we glad God made beautiful lilacs and gave them such a strong, lovely fragrance?"

A little while later, June was playing in another part of the yard. She sniffed, then sniffed again. "Mother," she called. "I smell another sweet smell, but there are no lilacs here."

Mother came over and pointed to some short stalks with small, white, bell-shaped flowers hanging on them. "Smell these," she said. "They are called lily-of-the-valley."

"Mmmm, they do smell so good, too!" June sniffed them over and over. "Can we pick a bouquet of them for in the house?" she asked.

"Yes, we can," Mother answered. "God made these for us to enjoy, too. We can enjoy them more if we have some in the house."

Later that same day, June walked back the field lane with Daddy. All at once she stopped and sniffed. "Daddy, what do I smell? I don't see any lilacs or lily-of-the-valley, but I smell a really sweet smell."

Daddy chuckled. "Here is what you smell," he said going to a big bushy vine covered with yellowish-white flowers. "It's called honeysuckle, and it does smell good. Hummingbirds and bees really like the honeysuckle nectar."

"God is so good to make lilacs, lily-of-the-valley, and honeysuckle for us to enjoy, isn't He, Daddy?" June said.

"Yes, and God made us with noses to smell and eyes to see and feet to walk, so we could enjoy the flowers. Isn't that wonderful, too?" Daddy took another delightful sniff of the honeysuckle before walking away.

June skipped at his side as they sang, "O Lord my God!
When I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands
have made. . . "

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

HARK! THE VOICE OF JESUS CALLING

Hark! the voice of Jesus calling:
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white, the harvest waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth,
Rich reward He offers free;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, O Lord, send me"?

If you cannot cross the ocean,
And the heathen lands explore,
You can find the heathen nearer,
You can help them at your door.
If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say, He died for all.

While the souls of men are dying,
And the Master calls for you,
Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do."
Gladly take the task He gives you;
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, O Lord, send me."

Daniel March, 1816-1909
From the *Christian Hymnal*

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JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

Here at the Pilgrim we don't hear a lot about whether we are on course or not. We have enough response to know that there is appreciation for our little paper. Occasionally we hear suggestions and mild criticism for improvement. So to hear two comments in one month is unique. Both comments were criticism and both were in order and good.

The first said, in effect, "You have a good little paper; it is appreciated, but let us have more exalting of the Lord Jesus." What a precious suggestion! How good it is to have a reader who will not only notice a need but will communicate it so that we may benefit! By God's grace we want to do this better in the future.

Our Bibles are brimming with praise of the Savior. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth: And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:9-11)

Every sincere Christian desires that worship of our Savior be more abundant and real in the hearts of all. Our songs express this reverence so well: "There Is A Name I Love to Hear," "He's Everything to Me," "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," "One There Is Above All Others," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," and hundreds more. When we believe that Jesus died *for me*, our praise will flow from grateful hearts.

The second criticism had to do with our historical article in the June issue. The reader evidently felt that in describing the annual meetings of our church and that of our German Baptist brethren, a negative inference was given. I believe that this was not intentional, but in recording the development of these meetings in the past, it is easy to give wrong impressions. If our fellowship were as large as some similar churches, we might have to make some changes in our yearly meetings. Our apologies go to all of our dear German Baptist readers for any offense given. We have no right to boast. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Gal. 6:14)

If we have a true view of the Church of Jesus Christ, we know that there is only one. When we belong to Him, we are brethren and sisters; we are in the same camp--not in competition in any way.

May God open our eyes to the needs of a doomed, dying world. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. If this is not our understanding, we are missing the mission of Jesus Christ and His Church.

Our first love is to our Savior. We love Him because He first loved us and gave Himself for us. Then we should love the ones He loves. He has special love for His followers, His body, but it does not stop there. He prayed that His Father would forgive those who were driving the nails into His hands and feet. He tells us to love our enemies and to return good for evil.

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17) It is easy to love those who love us--our families and close friends. But let us reach out in compassion to those who are loved of God--all those that Jesus died to save. Only then can we claim to be His true followers. --L.C.

DENYING SELF

When Jesus began to teach the doctrines of the kingdom of God, the people were moved by the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. He was able to bless the physical in healing, restoring life, and feeding the multitudes. Great numbers followed Him until He began to reveal His purpose in coming into the world--to deliver man from the power of sin and evil. He wanted men to put their faith and trust in Him. The requirement was that man needed to deny self before this could happen. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23) Man fell in defending self, and man must now deny self in coming to Christ.

We observe the big picture of sin and evil in the world and see how it is gaining momentum, and man is fearful of it. He blames the ruling powers from the highest level to the common people at the grass roots of humanity in the home and in the church. But every soul that has not been delivered from self is part of the big picture.

Christ's teaching was such that only in self denial could it have any effect on its hearers. Jesus taught self denial not only by words but in real life. He had more to deny Himself of than any man: "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:6-8) He gave the world a true picture of self denial.

Self denial, and what it calls us to, is a confusion of voices in the Christian faith: from a solitary life to a stone for a pillow; from voluntary poverty to a season of penitence.

Those that came to Jesus personally asking what to do to be saved were answered that it took self denial--not in word but in deed and truth in how to relate to our fellow men and how we hold what we think is ours.

Denying self is an act of humility in servanthood. Denying self is an act of virtue that will bless its fellowmen. It opens the door for a relationship in community, in family, in marriage--a relationship that is from heaven. Denying self is what empowers men to live in peace with all men and holiness without which no man will see the Lord.

The soul that isn't delivered from self is in bondage, and no man or earthly court can deliver him from it. His verdict is also settled in heaven.

The church of Christ is the messenger of self denial as it reciprocates in it. This is what attracts us to one another. It is the most attractive garment any man can wear. It is the evidence and power of the Holy Spirit. Its main concern is the welfare of its companions. It is the only way the joy of the Lord can be expressed in truth. It is what separated the church from the world and its sinful pleasures.

Self denial opens a door of welcome to our fellow men. It takes as much self denial for the receiver as the giver. This is how we become one in Christ.

The security of self denial is a daily vigil in communing with God and our fellow believers--that we forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, that we speak often to one another. Love the brotherhood. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Phil. 2:4,5 and 13)

So let our lives and lips express
The holy Gospel we profess;

So let our works and virtues shine
To prove the doctrine all divine. --Isaac Watts

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVELY

So often, it seems, it is easy to dwell on the negative things. Our human minds easily jump to conclusions, and it is always easier to see the faults of others rather than our own. Of course we all try to be kind to others, but do we really try to succeed in seeing the good in others?

One of the admonitions in our recent council meeting was that "We learn to see the good in each other." Really this shouldn't have to be hard. Are we not *all* striving toward the same goal? Do we not *all* want to press onward for Christ?

A very familiar verse, but yet a vital one is Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, *whatsoever things are lovely*, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." It is not a suggestion, it is a command, And God's Word never gives us commands that we are not capable of following. This verse does not tell us what not to talk and think about, but it does tell us what to think about. Do our thoughts about each of our fellow brethren pass this test?

In the book of Acts (18:23) it tells of Paul. "And after he had spent some time there, he departed. . . strengthening all the disciples." It does not say that he spent his time running them down, or criticizing them, but rather *strengthening them*. How beautiful it would be if each one of us could take that on, to strengthen our fellow believers!

John 13:35 says, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." It is sometimes easy to major on the minors and minor on the majors. This verse is quite simple--but so very important. In history there is record of many times when small, trivial issues ended up making division, and yet how easy it is to overlook the command of love. May we truly have love one to another. Not just tolerate each other, or just endure each other, but truly *love* each other.

In I Corinthians, the love chapter, it says, "Beareth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." Love patiently loves, believing the best. If we do love our fellow brethren, do we show by our words and actions that we love and appreciate them? Or are we like the story of the one who said, "I love you, and I'll let you know if it ever changes." A kind word, an encouraging comment, a cheering remark will go a long way in brightening up another's spirit.

Paul writes in I Thess. 3:6, "But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us *good tidings* of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always. . . Therefore, brethren, we were comforted. . . by your faith." How wonderful it would be if we each could truly take this lesson to heart.

Screws. Nails. Glue. A visiting minister recently made the comment that "Love is like these things that hold a building together." Can you imagine what would happen if suddenly all the screws, nails, and glue in a building were taken out? No matter how fine the building materials were, the result would be ruin.

Whatsoever things are lovely? May we not just have the love that is in our minds, but the love that is deep within the heart. A love that doesn't delight in talking down others. A love that looks beyond the human failings or mistakes. A love that sees the strengths and good points in our brother or sister.

A love that is strong. A love that binds us together. For through this love, we can become one.

"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." (John 17:22)

O Lord, help us to love.

William R. Johnson
Tuolumne, California

GOD'S ANSWER

This morning in church, Lloyd's theme for his sermon was "God's Answer." His text verse was James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." He told of situations in the Bible where men called on God and God brought them through, and others who proceeded without God and got nothing but trouble.

Yesterday we had a situation that was out of the ordinary. We were sitting at the table eating lunch when our neighbor woman knocked on our door. She was extremely "shook up" and wanted to use the phone to call the sheriff. She claimed her boyfriend (our neighbor man) was beating her.

We have had very little contact with these neighbors since they moved in about five months ago; except for a brief welcome and a passing wave on our way in or out, we don't see much of them.

But now she was sitting in our kitchen crying and shaking and going on about how he had been hitting her and threatening to kill her. After I got her a drink of water and a cool washcloth, I asked if she cared if I prayed with her. She gladly accepted, and it seemed to go a long way in calming her. While we waited for the sheriff to arrive, she told us a lot about herself.

She hasn't been to church in fifteen years. She has been divorced and has two children by different fathers and now is living with this man who isn't her husband, and they fight all the time and he hits her. . . It was a sad, hopeless story.

Today Lloyd said God's answer is Jesus. He is the answer to most of this world's questions and to all of its problems. I wish so much that our neighbors could hear that! What a comfort to know the *Answer*! To know we have Jesus to turn to in every situation!

When she left yesterday, under arrest, she asked me to pray for her. Somehow I hope that she can turn to the Lord and realize He has so much more to offer her than what she is living with now.

She stressed over and over that her family won't have anything to do with her, and she has no friends. I told her Jesus is there for her and He is a Friend. I wish I could have done more, and I don't know if we'll ever hear from her again, but my prayer is that she will turn to God, finding that He has been there for her all along--that Jesus is the answer to her questions.

Laura Brubaker, Tuolumne, California

TEACH ME

Teach me, O Lord, to be sweet and gentle
In all the events of life,
In disappointments, in the thoughtlessness of others,
In the insincerity of those I trusted,
In the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied.
Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes across my path.
May no one be less good for having come within my influence;
No one less pure, less kind, less noble
For having been a fellow-traveler
In our journey toward eternal life.

From Suzie Wagner's collection
Selected by Kevin and Ina Martin

HYMN HISTORY

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

A church member was overheard making excuses to his pastor for habitual absence from church. "But," the man hastened to explain, "I am always there in spirit." Replied the Methodist minister, "Most of my flock come in person. That spares me the feeling of stupidity that comes with preaching to a congregation of spirits."

On a rainy Sunday in 1849 Dr. Hiscox's congregation at the Central Baptist Church in Norwich, Connecticut, was comprised mostly of "spirits." Hiscox had prepared a series of sermons on "The Words on the Cross," but on that day most of the members attended only in spirit; of the choir members, only Mrs. B. S. Rathbun was there in person.

That afternoon Ithamar Conkey, the church's organist, pondered Dr. Hiscox's sermons on "The Words on the Cross." He recalled Sir John Bowring's hymn, "In the Cross I Glory." The music was not very good, and was not sung with much enthusiasm. The words were magnificent, but for want of a better tune, he feared the hymn might eventually die. So while the rain came down that Sunday afternoon, Ithamar Conkey wrote a new tune for the poem. He named the composition "Rathbun" in honor of the lone choir member who had showed up in person that morning rather than sending her "spirit" to sing in the choir.

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

Information from *A Hymn Is Born*: by Clint Bonner, 1959 Broadman Press.
Used by permission.

Jean Martin, Nappanee, Indiana

WITNESSING FOR GOD

Our God is light; our God is love.
He sends these both from Heaven above.
He has designed that both should flow
Into and through us here below.

How great the need for Heavenly light
In this sad place of darkest night;
'Mid sin and war where sad hearts bleed
For Heavenly love, how great the need.

The need so great, the time so short,
And every move of great import;
How sad it is there are so few
Who let that light and love shine through.

We cannot change the heedless throng;
In dark and sin they rush along,
But we can let God's light shine through
And spread His love by what we do.

Through this, our God will draw from sin
The honest heart to worship Him;
His kingdom spreads through feeble man
Who yields and does the best he can.

James Beery

Williamsport, Indiana

BAPTISM

Charlesta Hilty June 18, Bradford, Ohio

May this dear young sister walk with the Lord Jesus and
faithfully serve in the Kingdom.

OLD BRETHREN ANNUAL MEETING (Continued)

The Meaning and Reason

In Acts 15, read at every old order annual meeting, we have a basis for a brotherhood council meeting as held among the Brethren. In Jerusalem a general church council was called to deal with a distressing problem--what to do with Gentile converts. To those rooted in Judaism, and cherishing it besides, it was difficult to comprehend that in Christ circumcision availed little--only a heart that was circumcised. And so, in company with the whole assembly, the Jerusalem elders sent out a simple yet moving declaration exhorting Gentile converts to holiness of life and accepting them as brethren in the Lord.

But this had to do with specific problems. Otherwise, we have no record of something like an "annual meeting" among the early believers. In fact, such organization is noticeably absent. How do we justify holding such?

But neither do we have record of denominations in the modern sense among early believers, with some calling themselves "Old Greek Brethren" or "New Greek Brethren" or "Jewish Nazarenes" or any other man-made boundaries. Truth has become so blurred that we wonder if the Son of Man will find faith when He returns?

And that seems to be the best reason for maintaining and holding an annual meeting. From the *Statement of Policy* (Old Brethren) we read its purpose is to "consider matters of general interest, to promote a unity of Christian faith, and also to formulate and unify ceremonial forms. . ." To maintain true faith and encourage one another in it was the reason for meeting in Zinzendorf's day.

We need each other to help us keep this faith in a day when cultural assimilation threatens to make our love grow cold in the face of abundant iniquity with the pressure of a "melting

pot." As Brethren who seek to follow Christ in all things, we can in the spirit and reality of Acts 2 and 4 (all things in common), encourage one another to unity in this faith in Christ Jesus our Lord as interpreted by the apostles and believed by our early Brethren. The apostle Peter states it so eloquently when he writes: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God. . ." (I Peter 2:9,10) And being a people of God, we are taught in Hebrews 10:25: "Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

And so, may we continue in one faith, one baptism, serving one Lord until He comes and all His people are complete. And if He tarries, may many more annual meetings be blessed by His Holy Ghost. And may love, goodwill, and unity prevail among all Brethren groups, and appreciation for the faith and strengths of one another prevail--and discord cease!

With love and appreciation for all the Brethren, whatever their label.

Michael Harris,
Goshen, Indiana

RUN THE RACE

Run the Race! You who are young!
With vigor and strength burst forth;
The Captain says "GO!" He points
The way to heaven from earth.

Run the Race! You who are mothers,
Your busy days let not distract;

Your course is viewed by little eyes;
Your words and conduct will attract.

Run the Race! You fathers strong!
Decisions often must be made;
Your heart is Christ's! Does it show?
To run for Him be not afraid.

Run the Race! O Christian soul,
Straight to Jesus Christ run true;
The world says "No, it's much too hard,
There's so much more in life to do."

But if we really take a look
At all that Christ has done and said;
We'll better be while running strong,
Eternal rest and life ahead.

Lloyd Wagner
Modesto, California

CHILDREN'S PAGE

HAVE to ? or WANT to?

"Oh, Mother, do we *have* to?" Billy wailed.

"Please don't make us mow their yard today! We're hot and tired from mowing our yard, and we wanted to ride bikes this afternoon," wheedled Larry.

Mother smiled a bit, knowing bike-riding was just as hot and tiresome as mowing. "Let's talk a bit and see if we can't change your *have-to* attitude to a *want-to* attitude. If we can, you will enjoy mowing Robertson's yard just as much as you'd enjoy bike-riding."

"Never!" Larry said.

"Impossible!" said Billy.

Mother smiled again. "Let's see," she began. "Robertson's left a week ago yesterday, and they planned to be gone ten days. I'm sure they'll be expecting to see a very shaggy yard and weedy garden. They are probably already thinking about having to mow and work in the garden as soon as they get home. Wouldn't it be nice to surprise them with a tidy yard and garden to welcome them home?"

"They would like that. . ." began Larry.

At the same time, Billy said, "Hey, let's do it!" Enthusiasm for the job now made them forget how hot and tired they were five minutes ago.

"Get a drink of cold water before you go, boys," Mother said. "I'll come as soon as the baby wakes up. Perhaps I can get their garden cleaned up before you boys have their yard mowed."

After a cold drink, Billy and Larry hurried off to the neighbor's with the mowers. They chatted happily, and anyone could tell they were eager to get at the job.

Half-an-hour later, Mother came pushing baby in the stroller. She had a popsicle for each boy. While they rested and ate the popsicles, they planned how to finish the yard. "You do this section, Billy. I'll do that section over there," Larry said.

"Then we can both work at that orchard in the back," Billy decided.

"What happened to those two tired, whiny boys that didn't want to mow Robertson's yard?" asked Mother. Her smile, though, said that she already knew the answer.

"It's fun to surprise people," Billy said.

"And if a job is fun, it is more play than work," Larry added.

"It's all a matter of attitude, isn't it, boys?" Mother questioned. "Any job is much easier if it is done willingly. You

might want to remember that the next time you don't want to do a job. Find a way to change your attitude about it, and the job won't be nearly as dreadful."

The boys licked their popsicle sticks clean and handed them to Mother.

"Thanks, Mother," Billy said.

"That hit the spot!" Larry said. Both boys raced to the mowers to willingly finish their mowing job.

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

Experienced travelers (pilgrims) travel light. Bad habits, grudges, slang speech, frowns, complaints, self pity, idle words, ungratefulness, and sins of any kind are extra baggage that pilgrims should not carry. "Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there." --L.C.

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

PLASTIC CLAY

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded at my will.
I came again when days were passed;
The bit of clay was hard at last;
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay
And gently fashioned it day by day,
And molded with my power and art,
A young child's soft and yielding heart.
I came again when years were gone,
It was a man I looked upon,
The form I gave him still he bore,
But I could change that form no more.

--Author Unknown

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JESUS: PERFECT EXAMPLE

Outside my window two hummingbirds compete for the privilege of drinking nectar at the feeder. They fly with incredible speed and use energy and work harder for their size than most of God's creatures.

Earlier this morning I found an army of ants occupying our sink and drainboard. Here is another tiny creature that is an example of work and high use of energy. Proverbs 6:6 says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise."

Though these creatures give us good examples of industry, our Savior is the best pattern for us in every way. He is our example for our work, for our rest, and for the use of all our time. Being our best pattern still does not overshadow the fact that He is our Savior. He said, "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." In discussing Jesus' habits on earth (which were perfect), let us not lose sight of His coming to die on the cross for us. He is our example but also our Savior and Lord.

Jesus labored physically. He grew up under Joseph, a carpenter, who no doubt did his work by hand. Think of the discipline and willingness of Jesus who knew how work would be done centuries later. They had no electric power or computer-operated machines. Yet He was willing to do things the slow, hard way though He knew all the secrets and had all the resources to set Joseph up with a modern shop.

Mark 3:20,21 tells of the multitudes making such a demand on Jesus' strength and time that "they could not so much as eat bread." His friends heard of this and said, "He is beside himself." Jesus knew how much work needed to be done and

how little time He had to do it. In John 17:4 He prayed to the Father: "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

Jesus labored in prayer. The night before He chose His twelve apostles, "He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Was He agonizing about choosing Judas? Did He see the reluctance, the weaknesses, the unbelief, the carnality in His disciples (and in us)? Was He praying for all His chosen ones including us? In John 17:9 speaking of His disciples of that time, He said, "I pray for them." Then in verse 20, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." *Thank You, Jesus, for praying for me.*

Jesus labored in prayer in Gethsemane. It wasn't hot summertime, and likely it was a cool evening in Jerusalem. But His prayer was so earnest that "his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." His disciples slept.

Jesus knew how to rest and how to give us rest. After Herodias and Herod had beheaded John the Baptist, Jesus called His apostles, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest awhile." Reading carefully, we find that they had just returned after Jesus had sent them out "by two and two" to preach and heal and cast out devils. Jesus knew they needed rest and assurance. It was about that time also that Jesus made this invitation to all: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Possibly we in our time and country have been urged too much to work hard. Wages are good; times are prosperous. Labor produces the things that we humanly desire. But as in other Christian experiences, we need balance and moderation. Jesus said (John 6:27), "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed." This He said when so many followed Him because He fed them. No wonder He had compassion on the

multitudes! They lacked both spiritual and natural food. We have all the food we can eat and are even guilty of wasting. They followed Jesus because they were hungry. But both the hungry and the affluent need to know that there is "meat which endureth unto everlasting life." He tells us, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." (John 6:53) How we need Him for spiritual life!

Work is important--vital to our livelihood. But let us remember Proverbs 4:7: ". . . With all thy getting get understanding." Understand what Jesus did for us. Study His life and then remember: "All the way to Calvary He went for me!" "O to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer!" --L.C.

BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

Nonconformity: The Mind of Christ

War was declared between God and Satan. This took place in heaven. "Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. . . And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Revelation 12:7-10,17)

We are thankful heaven is cleansed from the power of Satan, and that no more can he accuse us before God day or

night, and that Christ is now at the throne of God--an interceding advocate for all those that keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

This knowledge moves us to action in hearing His testimony. He is the light of the world, and He calls us to be the same. Jesus declared the holiness of God and the wickedness of the world, which is the battlefield between God and Satan.

The testimony of Jesus Christ is "A friend in the world but not of the world." Therefore the world knows us not because it knew Him not. As we communicate with the world, we experience alienation because our spirits cannot blend, and rightly so because the spirit of the world is not compatible with the mind of Christ. To have the mind of Christ is proof of the greatest victory ever won in man and is the only victory that has eternal value.

Non-conformity comes in many forms. It is an act of confirmation that separates itself from its environment. The security in sound doctrine is to have the mind of Christ. The apostle Paul declares it this way: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Romans 12:1-3) Also see I John 2:15-17.

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

THANK YOU

My thoughts have been with the older generation the last while. As I see you getting older and the rigors of life wearing your bodies down, it becomes clearer all the time, that you won't always be with us. I begin to more fully realize what you mean and have meant to my life.

It seems the tendency is for older people to become discouraged and have doubts and fears about God's promises to His own. No doubt this is the work of Satan knowing he has but a short time. My desire with this letter is to be an encouragement to you, as you have been to me many times.

In looking back over my past life and heritage, I realize I have many reasons to thank and praise God for what I have been given. For as long as I can remember, many of you have been a part of the directing of my life. So when I look at the favorable situation I find myself and my family in and see all the problems, quarreling, and struggles many others are caught in, I can say with all my heart the words of the psalmist David (16:6), "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." I know first of all, I have God to thank, but I also want to thank you who have been followers of Christ and an example to us. We have in Hebrews 11, a list of heroes of faith. I could add a number of names to that list that would fit the requirements.

When I see the godly families you raised--many of your children, my associates since childhood, people whom I enjoy working with in the church, school, and community--my heart says, "Thank you." It gives me hope, courage, and determination by God's grace to try to do the same with my family.

Having grown up with your children and coming in contact my whole life with your faith and lives, I'm impressed with your

sincere desire to do God's will and your duty without pretence or hypocrisy, even when slandered at times for it. May my life be an example of the same.

I'm impressed more all the time with the swiftness of time, and how fast children grow up these days; also how soon it is that parents become grandparents. It drives home the fact that it won't be long till the previous generation begins to cross over, possibly leaving us behind.

So again I want to express my gratitude now for what you've given by worthy deed and example. Don't let the declining years of your life and labors become a discouragement. The best is yet to come.

Recently I've noticed the story of John the Baptist in relation to doubts and the end or later years of people's lives. Certainly John was a man of God--a man moved by God's Spirit even before he was born. Jesus said that among those born of women, there was not a greater prophet than John. He said he was more than a prophet. John was a great man of God preparing the way for the Savior of the world, boldly preaching the truth, even though it landed him in prison. John said of Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

But as long as there is opportunity, the adversary is not going to give up. So we see John in prison thinking of his life and where he is now, and doubts begin to grow. Yes, he knows God gave him a sign, that on whomsoever he saw the Spirit descend and remain, the same is the Messiah. He says in John 1:34, "And I saw, and bear record that this is the Son of God." Yet from prison we see him sending two of his disciples to Jesus asking (Luke 7:20), "Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?" Jesus answered, "Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard. . . and blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me."

I like to believe that gave John courage to face the end of his life with peace and assurance. So just remember the many

miracles and blessings the Lord has wrought in and by your lives, and don't be offended or discouraged if the adversary's access to you is not taken away till life is done.

I would just encourage you to keep on serving the Lord, "and let the peace of God rule in your hearts. . ." (Col. 3:15) claiming His promises for yourselves to the end. Your continued, faithful example is needed by us all.

I would like to close this letter with the blessing of Israel to you (Num. 6:24-26): "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

With love,
Neil Martin, New Paris, Indiana

OUR GOD: CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE; REDEEMER OF OUR SOULS

By the mercies of God, I will present my body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is my reasonable service. And I will not conform to this world but be transformed by a renewing of the mind, that I might prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For b being created by Him, in His likeness, with His Spirit, should I not be a witness unto Him for His glory. Or what think ye, do I have reason to rejoice, seeing that I continually fail and fall short of attaining unto perfection by my own strength? But God, by His grace, is able and willing to forgive my sins through a repentant heart and a desire to rise above iniquity. For what folly it is that I should think that of my own strength I could enter into life and have peace in my heart without first understanding the will of God and His desire for humanity.

Oh foolish men, to think that you can find happiness without God or that you are able to have fulfillment without the love of God. For our Creator made us in His likeness with a special method of happiness that cannot be attained out of His will. How is man to understand that true happiness is found by sacrificial love that others might know joy? One does not find happiness by thinking about his own wants but by looking for ways to fulfill others' needs. For this is not a life of bondage as carnal men would have you believe, for they, because of their blindness, are unable to see through the eyes of faith. There is no happiness, save but a fleeting moment of illusion, in focusing on ones own pleasure and trying to fulfill all that the carnal man desires. Happiness is found only in the love of Christ and the desire to give all to His will and seeking ways to encourage our fellow man.

It is utter folly of mankind to think that all that is about us is but a coincidence and that it did not happen at the Creator's command. Blind are those who think that millions of years could bring all things into perfect unison as the Lord has designed. Seeing then that there is no way to disprove the beautiful story of creation, and as believers in God and His love of mankind, do we not owe Him everything, including our very souls and beings? We must accept God as the omnipotent Creator of this world, the One who was before time and the One who will be beyond time. And why should we doubt seeing the proof that scholars have been unable to destroy? Who are we that we should say that God did not exist before time, seeing we are created by Him? Does the cabinet say to the cabinetmaker, "You did not build me; I just happened by coincidence"? Those who will build upon this fact: that God being immortal, created the universe and those who dwell therein, will have a foundation unshakable.

Knowing that God is real and that He is the Creator of the world and we are in His likeness--now we are of the same

understanding. Now we can together understand the blessings of God through His Son Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of the church. For after the creation of mankind, evil sprang up, and man was deceived by the devil. The devil is the enemy of truth and would have men in darkness that they would not believe and be saved from damnation to come and to be in bondage to sin in this life. After much patience with mankind and assuring the continuing of life by Noah, God destroyed all living things with a great flood. Afterwards He gave us the promise that He would not destroy the earth again until the end of time when it will burn up in fire to the damnation of those who do not believe. Again mankind was unable to keep the commands of God and continually sinned before God. Then God being moved with compassion sent His only Son that by the willing death of Jesus on the cross, we might have access through grace, into the Kingdom of God. So now we can come to the throne of grace, unto the forgiveness of sins and justification by the blood of Jesus. For God saw that mankind was not able, because of his unbelief, to live righteously by a set of laws of which to fail was to be condemned to death. So now upon the truth that God is the Creator of the universe and that His only Son Jesus Christ willingly came to earth and suffered and died for the atonement of our sins, we have access unto our Creator and the promise of salvation. We that believe and daily communicate with our Savior are now one body with many members, built on this unshakable foundation and filled with love for one another, united unto one cause, to be a fit bride of Christ for eternal glory with Him. May we honor Him as Savior and Lord by obedience to His Word.

John L. Beery
Williamsport, Indiana

All children are a gift from God, and they should be treated as such. --From a *Pilgrim* reader

HYMN HISTORY: Safe in the Arms of Jesus

When Fanny Jane Crosby was six weeks old, in May, 1820, she caught a cold, and a country doctor unwittingly prescribed a hot mustard poultice for her inflamed eyes. The result was total blindness for life. Resigned to the verdict that her eyesight could never be restored, Fanny Crosby turned her handicap into an asset. She declared that her blindness was a blessing, for, not being disturbed by things about her, she could more easily write her poems. She said too that by being blind on earth, when her sight was restored in heaven, the first sight her eyes would behold would be that of her "blessed Savior."

Fanny devoted a large portion of her long life to creating gospel hymn-poems. Her total is estimated to have passed the nine thousand mark. Among them are "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior," "Rescue the Perishing," "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross," "Blessed Assurance," "Close to Thee," and "All the Way My Savior Leads Me."

The career of Frances Jane Crosby Van Alstyne closed on February 12, 1925. She had known happiness. And she had known sorrow. Her only child had died in infancy. Her blind musician-husband, with whom she had happily shared a quarter of a century, had long since passed on. At Fanny's funeral her own hymns were sung including "Safe in the Arms of Jesus."

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! 'tis the voice of angels
Borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper sea.

Information from *A Hymn Is Born* by Clint Bonner. 1959 Broadman Press. Used by permission.

Jean Martin, Nappanee, Indiana

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

For Such a Time

In the busyness of our lives, we can become so involved in the problems and stresses of the present that we tend to lose our long-range vision. Although we all believe that God has called us to fill the places where we are, we often forget that we are involved in kingdom work, no matter what our responsibility or position is.

Teachers may become discouraged by the lack of response from their students. They may question themselves, "Why did I ever agree to teach this year?" Parents may struggle with feelings of inadequacy, or become frustrated trying to find time to do all that needs to be done to provide for their family. At times we all are tempted to think that our circumstances are bringing us into a crisis that we are unable to do anything about.

At such times we need a Mordecai to remind us that we have been called "for such a time as this." We must be convinced that God has placed us where we are for a purpose. He knew, long before you did, all about the first grader who still tries to guess his words instead of sounding them out. Before the Creation, He knew which parents could handle the special-needs child that He placed in your home. He knows and cares about our feelings of inadequacy, our busy schedules, and our desire to keep right priorities so that we can give our children the individual attention they need. And we have been called for such a time as this.

I doubt that Esther marched boldly into the presence of the king, even though she went willingly. So we also must recognize our insufficiency. We must remember that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. He works through earthen vessels so that the excellency of the power will be of Him, and not of us.

But He does work through us! He has called us for this moment in time. Be faithful!

By Jonathan Reinford in *The Christian School Builder*

HIS WAY IS BEST

Sometimes, when all life's lessons have been learned,
And sun and stars forevermore have set,
The things which our weak judgement here have spurned,
The things o'er which we grieved with lashes wet,
Will flash before us, out of life's dark night
As stars shine more in deeper tints of blue,
And we see how all God's plans were right,
And how what seemed reproof was love most true.

And if, sometimes commingled with life's wine,
We find the wormwood, and rebel and shrink,
Be sure a wiser hand than yours or mine
Pours out this potion for our lips to drink.
And if some friend we love is lying low
Where human kisses cannot reach their face,
Oh, do not blame the loving Father so!
But wear your sorrow with obedient grace.

And you shall shortly know that lengthened breath
Is not the sweetest gift God sends His friend,
And that sometimes the sable pall of death
Conceals the fairest bloom His love can send.
If we could push ajar the gates of life
And stand within and God's own working see,
We could interpret all this doubt and strife,
And for each mystery would find the key.

But not today. Then be content, poor heart!
 God's plans, like lilies, pure and white unfold;
 We must not tear the close shut leaves apart:
 Time will reveal the hidden cups of gold.
 And when through patient toil we reach the land
 Where weary feet, with sandals loose, may rest;
 Then we shall know and clearly understand;
 I know that we shall say, "God knows best."

Found among Aunt Susie Wagner's writings.
 Selected by Joseph E. Wagner

BAPTISM--California Congregation

Mary Laurenzi -- July 2, Salida, California

We pray that this dear sister may be a faithful member of the
 Church of Jesus Christ.

BIRTHS

BLOCHER - A daughter, Rose Marie, born July 20 to Craig
 and Linda Blocher of New Paris, Ohio.

OBERHOLZER - A son, Lance Edison, born July 24 to Shane
 and Beth Ann Oberholzer of Goshen, Indiana.

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FOR YOUTH
Christian Youth

In our homes and churches today,
May we have youth that work and pray;
That always seek to do God's will
And aren't content by being still.

May we have youth that learn and grow,
More of God's will and way to know;
Youth that will always stand the test,
To do the right and leave the rest;

Youth that aren't wise in their own eyes,
That never kindness do despise,
That can be friends with one and all
And do good deeds however small;

Youth that don't always have to play
And do what all the others say;
Youth that will find great contentment in
Yielding to God and not to sin;

Youth that their parents do respect,
That can be told when not correct,
And will accept with much delight
When told that they are not quite right.

These are the kind of youth we need--
The kind that know and live their creed.

Regina Bayer
Dayton, Ohio

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Little Bad Habits

"Next week I'll clean my room right, but Dolly was so much fun, and now it's supper time, so I'll just put everything in the toy box and under the dresser where Mama won't see," thought Anna, not wanting to get punished.

"Tomorrow I'll try hard but just for one more day I'll just get it out of the way. It's so much more fun coloring!" she thought as she hurriedly scribbled answers to her math work. She knew some were wrong, but from tomorrow on she'd do better.

"Oh look! It's 9:30 already, and I can't even keep my eyes open! Why didn't I read my Bible and pray this morning like I planned? I'll read twice as long tomorrow!" All day she had planned to. . . later, yet never did she really spend much time alone with God.

Little bad habits grow up with you. A lot of the things that make me sad now come from little bad habits I had as a child. God loves you very much and deserves your very best. Start now to do all things "heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." (Col. 3:23) Martha Wagner, Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

THE HOURGLASS

Alas! How swift the moments fly!
How flash the hours along!
Scarce here, yet gone already by--
The burden of a song;
See childhood, youth, and manhood pass,
And age with furrowed brow;
Time *was*--time *shall be*-- drain the glass,
But where in time is *now*?

Time is the measure but of change,
No present hour is found;
The past, the future, fill the range
Of time's unceasing round.
Where then is *now*? In realms above,
With God's atoning Lamb,
In regions of eternal love,
Where sits enthroned "I AM."

Then, pilgrim, let thy joys and tears
On time no longer lean,
But henceforth all thy hopes and fears,
From earth's affections wean.
To God, let votive accents rise;
With truth--with virtue live;
So all the bliss that time denies,
Eternity shall give.

--John Quincy Adams

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MARAUDER AT LARGE

"The deer must have been in the garden again last night. Look at these tomato vines. We won't have much of a crop this year." My wife was lamenting an almost nightly occurrence when deer leaped over our fence and ate as they were inclined on the delicate shoots of our vegetables. As I examined the damage, I found my new ruby grape vines nipped back to nearly bare stems. It wasn't the first time. These grapes had been ravaged before, and I had strung yet another wire to make the fence even higher. But the damage continued as the marauders found still another weak place in our fence.

The devil is at large. He is worse than a deer nipping grape vines. Peter wrote that he, "as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." This character is not interested in destroying our gardens but in devouring us. Peter writes to be sober and vigilant and to resist him steadfast in the faith.

One of our hymns (number 116) has this verse:

And while the hours in order flow,
O Christ, securely fence
Our gates beleaguered by the foe,
The gate of every sense.

Is this how the adversary has access to us? By our senses? John Bunyan in *The Holy War* writes of the eye gate and the ear gate where Satan makes war to gain entrance.

We have only one key to victory over this crafty one, but this key always works. It is refuge in Jesus Christ. In Psalm 91 the writer has this assurance: "He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust." Psalm 61:3: "For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy."

In the gardens and vineyards of Israel, they often built a tower. (See Matthew 21:33) This tower was a place from which one could watch to protect their valuable produce from wild animals and thieves. Song of Solomon 2:15 describes one of these culprits: "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes." Of course, the verse is figurative, but the writer used a danger that was well understood.

Our vines, too, have tender grapes. Our children are often exposed to Satan's tricks through what they see and hear. Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Our Christian schools, in session again, provide opportunity for teaching about the Savior. But school cannot replace the home. Jesus is our refuge and protection, and children are invited to come and know the Savior. They are easy believers--both of the truth and the multitude of falsehoods being told today. (As a child, I used to think that anything written was true.) Children can be shown the Lord Jesus in Bible teaching, by good example, and by songs of praise to Him. I was warmed today when a child told me they had a Bible story and worship every evening at home. Only in Jesus Christ is there protection, safety, and victory.

Our personal lives are also exposed targets for the enemy. He wants to keep us so occupied with "the world" and all its busy-ness that we fail in Bible reading and in time spent on our knees. We forget to be encouragers to those in despair or sorrow. We don't take time to patiently teach our children. We become irritated at those who need to see Christian virtues shining in our lives.

Satan may not kill the vines, but only nip them back, keeping them from bearing fruit. Jesus said, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except ye abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

Let us, like our children, simply believe the promises of our Lord Jesus and trust His protecting hand. He said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." --L.C.

BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

Justification

Before the human heart can relate to justification, it needs to understand the need for it. Man has alienated himself from God's will and acceptance. We of ourselves are helpless to change the matter by any good thing we might do or say.

The only source of knowledge of where God is and man's relationship to Him is in the Holy Scriptures. They give the account of creation--the earth including plants, animals, and man. It also gives the historical account of a little over four thousand years of history.

Man, created in God's own image, was the crowning point in creation. The beautiful earth was created for man's pleasure and habitat. The planted earth itself is a testimony of its Creator and holds man accountable to Him for who God is. "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." (Rom. 1:19-21) This is the lot of every soul that comes into the world. This is not the spirit God has created us with, but man fell when he chose to disobey God soon after he was created. His choice affected all his posterity.

The Scriptures are clear that man, in himself, is powerless to change his position before his Maker. The law was given, not

to justify man, but to make man aware of God's nature and holiness. The depth of man's fall is more than physical. But the soul and spirit can be (and is) justified by God's gift of His only begotten Son to die in our stead. This has the potential to justify every living soul that has lived and will live on the earth.

The requirement is that man acknowledge this gift through faith and express it by word and deed. This is justification. Any act of man outside of this faith, however righteous it might be, is idolatry. Every act that is not of faith is sin. This is what the Gospel is all about; it reveals a righteousness that comes from faith.

Satan takes advantage of the doctrine of justification by claiming it is not of works lest any man should boast. This is a true statement, but, taken out of context, it has deceived multitudes.

"For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" (Heb. 10:26-29)

Kenneth Martin,
Nappanee, Indiana

FALL COMMUNION NOTICES

Wakarusa, Indiana October 7,8

Salida California October 14,15

All are welcome to these services. Come and bring friends.

JESUS CHRIST: One We Cannot Ignore

We might not like to think of it in this way, but Jesus Christ is one we cannot ignore: because of who He was and is; because He holds the destiny of our souls in His hand.

Christ made Himself of no reputation. He "took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. . . And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:7-11)

We must be aware that before coming to earth, Jesus Christ stood on the edge of time and spoke the world into being. Christ is not someone false or imaginary; He is the Son of God who came to earth in the form of a man. "And the Word (Christ) was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:10-12)

It may seem strange that the Babe who was born in Bethlehem and wrapped in swaddling clothes and cradled in His mother's arms was none other than the Creator of the universe come to earth in the form of a man. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:3) God "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." (Heb. 1:2)

What mission did Christ have to fulfill? First, He came to bring us the forgiveness of sins. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God's authority and rule in the Garden, God could have walked away and allowed their damnation to stand. He could have allowed them to stumble into perdition without mercy or hope. But because of the love that He had for man, God gave a plan to rescue him from his fallen estate. God told Adam and Eve that the penalty for their disobedience would be death, death spiritually, physically, and eternally, and when they ignored God's command and partook of the forbidden fruit in spite of what God said, they incurred a debt they could not repay. So their only hope was that someone would die in their place to rescue them from the penalty of sin. God could not simply forgive man's sin and be done with it, because He is not only merciful; He is also just. His righteousness would not allow Him to overlook sin. Either man would have to die for the sins he had committed or someone else would have to die in his place. So only when justice was done would God be able to forgive man's sin without violating His righteousness. God sat upon His judgment throne and passed the heaviest penalty the law could allow upon sin. No matter how much God loved man, He was forced to bring down the gavel of death. His justice wouldn't allow Him to do less. God loved man so deeply that He came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ and paid off man's debt Himself. Christ "appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." (Heb. 9:26) "... He by the grace of God (tasted) death for every man." (Heb. 2:9)

When Christ cried out from the cross, "It is finished!" He was announcing for time and eternity that man's debt of sin was paid. God could now forgive man's sin--not at the expense of His righteousness, but in perfect keeping with it. Christ came to resolve man's problem of sin by dying in his place. "... The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mat. 20:28) "But God

commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. . ." (I Peter 3:18)

Christ came also to win back the love and devotion of our hearts. God has always wanted the devotion of man's heart. Yes, Christ expressed God's desire for this when He said the first and greatest commandment was "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Christ expressed His own desire for this when He said, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." The reason God sent Christ to earth was not to save us from perdition but to win back the allegiance of our hearts, because that is what God treasures more than anything else, and this is what Christ came to recover. Christ said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46) "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Mat. 7:21)

The re-establishment of God's rule in our hearts is at the very center of our salvation. Forgiveness and obedience also go together. Christ said that on judgment day many are going to say "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name. . . and in thy name done many wonderful works?" But His answer is, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matt. 7:22-23) Christ's call to salvation is also a call to discipleship, and this is where man usually begins backing away. We don't want Christ interfering with our lives. The thing that separates those who are Christ's from those who are not is not simply that one believes the right thing about Christ and the other does not, or that one has said the right prayer and the other has not. The difference runs much deeper than that. What separates those

who are Christ's from those who are not is that one has forsaken his sin, and the other has not; or that one has given Christ the allegiance of his heart, and the other has not. So one has entered into a personal relationship with Christ, and the other has not. When the terms of discipleship are presented, it drives people away from Christ. Naturally we want to draw as many to Him as possible. But Christ never down played the high cost of discipleship so greater numbers would follow Him. He wasn't carried away with the enthusiasm of those that thronged about Him. And it really put a damper on their enthusiasm. For He said, "Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Christ didn't give discipleship a soft feel so more people would be attracted to it. He encouraged people rather to count the cost carefully before committing themselves to it. He said no one would build a tower without first counting the cost to see if he had sufficient resources to finish it. So neither should anyone commit himself to discipleship without carefully counting the cost. "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62)

It's not the idea of forgiveness which causes people to turn Christ aside. Who wouldn't want forgiveness if nothing else were involved? It's the thought of Lordship that causes people to back away. People do not want Christ interfering with their lives. They want to be free to live as they please. Sooner or later everyone has to decide what they are going to do with Jesus, whether to embrace Him as Savior and Lord or turn Him away. And on this decision hangs our eternal destiny. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (I John 5:11,12) When judgment day arrives, Christ is going to separate those who are His from those who are not His. And to those who are His, He will say "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom

prepared for you from the foundation of the world. . . " And to those who are not His, He will say, "Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. . . " (Matt. 25:34-41)

So now it comes down to this: What will we do with Jesus? **We cannot be neutral.** Someday our heart will ask, "What will He do with me?" **We can't ignore Jesus Christ.**

Lloyd Flora
Flora, Indiana

BEHOLD THE MAN!

A restaurateur in Britain, Emil Mettler, had a policy of giving free meals to full-time Christian workers. But once he did have occasion to open his cash register in the presence of the secretary of the London Missionary Society. The secretary was surprised to see a six-inch nail among the bills and coins. "Why do you have a nail with your money?" he asked.

"I keep the nail with my money to remind me of the price Christ paid for my salvation and of what I owe Him in return," Emil explained.

We may have other ways of remembering Christ's sacrificial death. But in one way or another, we should do as John 19:5 says, "Behold the man!" Take a few minutes to behold His appearance in the last few hours before His death on the cross.

1. **Behold the purple robe.** Jesus appearing in a purple robe is the context of Pilate's invitation to look. "Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!" (John 19:5). Jesus quietly bore their mockery of giving Him a kingly robe while treating Him like dirt. *Do I put a royal robe on Christ with my speech while my life makes mockery of Him?*

2. **Behold the crown of thorns.** See the trickles of blood from gashes caused by the thorns. *Is my Sovereign that in name only, and do my actions bring Him more pain because of pretense?*

3. **Behold His back.** It is scourged, lacerated, bleeding. His skin was cut to ribbons to make us whole. As Isaiah 53:5 says, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." *Do I appreciate His sufferings for me, or do I turn my back on Him?*

4. **Behold His eyes.** They are filled with compassion and tears, not for Himself, but for those He is dying to save. They are still glistening from His weeping over Jerusalem a little earlier. *Have my eyes wept for my sins, in sympathy with those who weep, and in gratitude for salvation?*

5. **Behold His face.** "And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that smote thee?" (Luke 22:64). Isaiah 50:6 intimates that hair had been torn from His beard. And Isaiah 53:14 says, "His visage was so marred more than any man." He turned the other cheek and laid down His life. *Do I turn the other cheek in the spirit of true nonresistance, following Christ's example?*

6. **Behold His shoulders.** No doubt they were scraped, red, and bruised from carrying the heavy, rough cross. *Do I bear my cross daily?*

7. **Behold His lips.** Those lips spoke words of forgiveness, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." They spoke words of assurance. "To day thou shalt be with me in paradise." They spoke words of commitment. "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." *Do my lips echo His forgiveness, hope, and commitment?*

8. **Behold His hands.** Gaze reverently at those hands pierced by nails like the one in the restaurant cash drawer. Hands that blessed toddlers, touched the leper, raised the sick, blessed the

bread, restored Malchus' ear, and washed His servants' feet. *Do my hands bless and serve others?*

9. **Behold His feet.** Those feet walked the dusty paths of Palestine to bring good tidings of peace. Those feet walked to Jerusalem in obedience knowing full well that a merciless spike would fasten them to the cross. Are my feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace? *Do they walk in obedience? for they "should follow his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).*

10. **Behold His side.** His side was pierced to bring us peace through the blood of the cross. He died to bring us life. *Does my body give evidence of being dead to sin and alive to God?*

There was once a Roman lady of high birth and background. She was single. "No one shall ever win my hand in marriage unless he gives me proof that he would die for me." she said. Years passed, and one day, along a Roman street, she listened to a persecuted Christian talking about his Lord, holding up Jesus Christ for those around him to see. As she listened and beheld Jesus, she decided: "Here is one who *has* died for me; to Him alone shall my heart's love be devoted forever."

By Howard Bean

Selected by Herman Royer from *Companions*.

HYMN HISTORY

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph Scriven was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1820. He was educated on the Emerald Isle and graduated from Dublin's Trinity College. He was engaged to be married to an Irish lass; then tragedy struck. The day before the wedding Scriven's bride-to-be was accidentally drowned. Joseph suffered a shock that was to go with him the rest of his life.

At the age of 25, Scriven migrated to Canada in the hope of forgetting. But he never forgot. Ten years later Scriven's mother fell ill and he wrote a poem to comfort her. He called it

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus." For 40 years the grief-stricken Irishman associated himself with the underprivileged and poor of Lake Rice and Port Hope, Canada. He lived around among his friends, since he didn't have a home of his own. He sought out orphans whom he might help. He sawed wood and did patch carpentry for widows. But he never worked for those able to pay. Some said he was eccentric or strange. Whatever people might have thought, Joseph Scriven devoted his life to helping those less fortunate than he.

The poem Scriven had written to comfort his mother was not intended to be a hymn. He hadn't meant for anybody else to see it. We don't know how the poem first got into print. Its first use as a hymn was in 1865. It was sung for ten years before the people of Lake Rice even knew their townsman had written it. But one day an attending neighbor found the manuscript copy in the room where Joseph Scriven lay ill. When asked if he had written the then popular hymn, he replied that he and the Lord wrote it "between" them.

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Information from *A Hymn is Born* by Clint Bonner. 1959 Broadman Press. Used by permission.

Jean Martin, Nappanee, Indiana

BIRTH

HARRIS - A daughter, Katrina Lois, born August 27 to Michael and Wanda Harris of Goshen, Indiana.

BLESSING IN DISGUISE

Struggling brother, on life's pathway
Are you pressed with trials sore?
Do you feel the burdens heavy?
Do you feel like giving o'er?

Yes, your feet are slipping, faltering,
And you cannot understand
Why the Lord who said He loved you
Would such sacrifice demand.

Count your trials all as blessings
Though the purpose be not clear.
After, when the clouds have vanished
You will hold the Lord more dear.

He's just heating up the furnace
For to purify the gold,
Till it magnify His image
In the lustre of the gold.

Author unknown. Selected by Janice Royer.

HEIRS OF THE PROMISE

This booklet by Daniel F. Wolf has now been reprinted and is available for \$3.00 postpaid. It is a fifty-nine page commentary on God's promises to Abraham and the relation of Israel and the Church to the Kingdom of God. Order from

The Pilgrim,
19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

CHILDREN'S PAGE
Compassionate Connie

"Snap!" "Snap!" "Snap!" Three voices called out at almost the same time.

"Connie got it," Lue said, pushing her pile of animal-picture cards toward Connie.

"Here's my pile," Sharon said, shoving her cards over to Connie, too.

Connie put all those cards with the cards she already had in her hand, and the game began again. But soon, though, she stopped and put her stack of cards on the table. "I'm going to get Paula. I'm sure she's lonely, and even if she does cheat, we can still play with her. I'll tell her why we don't want her playing with us. Maybe she'll play fair now."

"Oh, don't bother with her, Connie," Sharon said. "We're having such fun without her."

"Yes, just let her be alone," Lue agreed.

Connie hesitated, but then bravely said, "I feel sorry for Paula. Maybe I can help her to quit cheating." Off she went in search of Paula.

She found Paula behind the garage, crying. "Come play with us, Paula," Connie said.

"No, you girls aren't nice, and I'm going to tell on you," Paula spat out. "You all cheat and don't give me a chance!"

"Paula, listen to me," Connie said, "I'm going to tell you the truth, and I want you to listen. It's not the rest of us who cheat. It is you. And it isn't one bit fun to play games with someone who cheats. But, I feel sorry for you, and I'll talk the other girls into letting you play again if you promise to play fair. My mother says we should play games for the fun of playing, not just for winning. We can all do our best and have fun whether we are winning or not."

"Now, won't you come in and play with us again? Let's all just have a fun time together and forget about winning. Will you come?"

For a little bit Paula's face still looked as sour as a gooseberry. But, finally she smiled a little and said, "Okay. I'm sorry I cheated, and I'll play for the fun of playing with you girls. It's not fun to be out here by myself! Thank you for coming to get me, Connie."

Sharon and Lue still weren't very happy to have Paula back in the game--until they saw that she played fairly after all.

Can YOU be compassionate and feel sorry for someone who is unhappy? Can YOU do something to help them be happy? Whenever the Bible tells about Jesus having compassion on people, it also tells that He **did** something to help the people.

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

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THE PILGRIM

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No. 10 & 11

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Great corruption and iniquity abound on every hand;
Evil thoughts and base philosophies persist.
But the child of God is planted here according to His plan;
You are come into the kingdom for such a time as this.

Moses had a great temptation to live in luxury,
As a pharaoh ruling in a palace grand;
But instead he chose affliction, disgrace, and poverty.
He was come into the kingdom as God's appointed man.

With each rising generation, the challenge is renewed,
To instruct the minds of children in the truth;
There are many workers needed, this great challenge to pursue;
You are come into the kingdom to guide the hearts of youth.

There is still a ray of hope for those who truly serve the Lord,
You're directed by a strong and mighty hand.
Though the struggle may be fraught with danger, peril, and the
sword,
You are come into the kingdom to follow His command.

You are come into the kingdom to do your Father's will;
The reward is heaven's everlasting bliss.
There's a work that God designed for you, no other can fulfill;
You are come into the kingdom for such a time as this.

By Enos Stutzman, 2000

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TRUE THANKSGIVING

"We have so much to be thankful for." We hear and say it often and it is true. But I suspect that our thankfulness would be greater if we had less of the material things. To prove this, may we consider three areas: the responses of children, the expressions of those who were less favored than we are, and some statements of Paul the great apostle.

Children's responses are usually in harmony with their human nature, without pretense, but that which they genuinely feel. The fact that they must be taught to say "thank you" demonstrates the selfishness of this nature. The old nature does not reach out in love or appreciation. It tells us that we in some way deserve to be favored. So why would we need to be thankful? Picture the child surrounded by expensive toys. He may be delighted with each new one added to the collection, but it does not occur to him to be thankful. He only wants more. And often something very ordinary, like the wrapping paper, attracts him most. Children with remote control cars are no happier or more thankful than those in past days who played with spools and blocks.

Christians of the past produced beautiful expressions of thanksgiving and praise. A famous picture, appreciated by all, shows a man giving humble thanks for a very simple meal, a loaf of bread. Many of our songs of thanksgiving came from the 1800's, and someone in the tenth or eleventh century wrote these words:

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast,
But sweeter far Thy face to see
And in Thy presence rest.

The rest of the song shows deep appreciation for the love of the Savior and the hopes He gives us.

The martyr hymns are expressions of praise and deliverance if not outright thanksgiving. I'm sure they weren't thankful for their pain, separation from family and friends, or the hostility of their persecutors, but for the hope, peace and forgiveness in Christ. Consider these words by Georg Wagner (martyred at the stake in 1527) and translated by John Overholt:

The Father we will ever praise,
Who us redemption brought;
In heaven high our thanks we'll raise,
Through Christ's death we are bought,
Whom God hath us in mercy given
From sin to reconcile:
That we by faith should live in Him
As His obedient child.

We know that thanksgiving is present today; it was not an exclusive feature of any age. But those thankful ones of the past knew nothing of automatic washing machines, micro-wave ovens, copiers, airplane travel, sergers, or chainsaws, not to mention computers and E mail. Thankfulness is not dependant on earthly comforts but is fruit of a grateful heart, no matter what the condition of the body might be. We could speak of hope from hospital beds and joy in the deepest sorrow, thanksgiving in poverty and praise in presence of danger.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians a principle, sad but all too true. II Corinthians 12:15: "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." Is this our response to the countless comforts and conveniences God gives us in His love? It doesn't need to be. One way we can show our thankfulness is by using the resources God gives us without wasting them.

Paul gave us a classic expression of thanksgiving, again to the Corinthian Christians: "Thanks be unto God for his

unspeakable gift." Paul's thanks for Jesus and His grace came from a life of severe suffering and sacrifice. We only cite a couple of verses from his list: "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep." One could complain, but not Paul.

We can be thankful in our time of abundance, but it will likely not come because of cars and computers. It will come in sincerity because of Jesus' love and sacrifice for us. Around our lavish feast of thanksgiving this year, let us remember that if we were to lose all material blessings, we are still rich if our names are written in heaven. --L.C.

BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

Regeneration

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might

be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. --Titus 3:1-8

This picture language of what man is and what he is to become is only possible through regeneration. The urgency of Paul's letter to Titus was to set in order the things that were wanting in the church at Crete. This is a chronic need for the church in all generations. He was to speak the things which became sound doctrine. The basis for sound doctrine was in God's grace. Only in God's grace can man become what He desires of us. May we adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, for only in sound doctrine can we become the righteousness of God.

To be born into the world can only come about through the physical laws that govern it. There is no life outside of this. Man has no choice in it. When he comes forth, he needs to respond to a different atmosphere or not continue to live.

The process of regeneration has a lot in common with physical birth, except that we have the choice in it. God has provided a way for man to become His righteousness through the process of regeneration and to become a new creation through a new birth of water and of the Spirit. Jesus declared that except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. The question was raised, "How can this be?" Jesus said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." To ignore the physical aspect of regeneration would be an insult to Christ's own testimony. While here on earth, had Jesus not involved the physical, Satan would still have his prey because the flesh is his dominion on earth.

There are those that claim man has proven the new creation or regeneration outside the process (or doctrines) Jesus declared would be required for this to happen. To ignore biblical doctrines is to ignore Jesus. It is wanting to "climb up

some other way." Others are fearful of depending on works. This is a valid concern and is one of Satan's methods to deceive.

We believe that as the natural process for physical life to come into the world cannot be altered, neither can the process of spiritual regeneration be altered.

When we are born physically and don't respond, it is called "stillborn"; there is no life. So it is with the new birth; the process cannot be altered unless opportunity is not afforded, like the thief on the cross. Satan loves to use instances of this kind to undermine the spirit of Christ and doctrines He taught.

We believe that children brought up by Godly parents are sanctified and are holy before God in their innocence, but when their minds mature and can relate in faith, then their parental obedience is not enough. Now they are accountable to a higher authority. The response to this is to be born again of water and of the Spirit which ushers them into the family of God legitimately. Only in this process can we become the righteousness of God. Even though at times the procedure can be altered, the spirit of this process of regeneration can never be changed.

Jesus said that those who follow Him, in the regeneration or new creation, will sit with Him in the throne of His glory. (Mat. 19:28)

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

THE CONDUCT OF CHRISTIANS

Members of the body of Christ, which is the church, all fit together as one, and yet with many different abilities. But upon one common foundation we stand; we are created by God. His Son Jesus Christ came to earth in the form of man, died for the

atonement of sins, was resurrected again, and now intercedes for us at the right hand of God. So none of us have reason to boast, seeing we did not come by this salvation by our own strength, but God gave it to us freely upon our confession of sin and willing repentance. Now even in our new commitment unto a new life in Christ, we still fall short of perfection, and it is only through His forgiveness that we are able to have hope in the promise of eternity with Him.

Let us then be glad in the abilities of each other and support one another in our individual strengths. Those who have an ability to connect with those that are unsaved should have the support of all the members of the body of Christ, that we do not appear to be divided. Those who have given their best as ministers of God, need our continual support and prayers lest they be discouraged. Some have the ability to write and to warn of lukewarmness among us or maybe to encourage the heavy laden with thoughts of Heaven. Instead of doubting one who prophesies of future things, let us respectfully consider their thoughts whether they be in keeping with the word of God. Do we think that God is any less present today than in the days of the prophets of old? Let each do as he is able in building up the kingdom and always be in keeping with the will of God. But let each do his best in simplicity without pride. A body with only feet would wander aimlessly; so a body with only a head would only think of good but never do it. Oh the beauty of the individual abilities of each member of Christ, all centered on lifting up Christ and supporting one another! The minister was inspired of God to speak on the way of life; the writer wrote the message down; then the one who had the ability to witness took it to the unsaved. The unsaved upon hearing of the salvation through Jesus, looked upon the body of Christ and, seeing a body of believers in unity and focused on building up the kingdom of God, believed to the saving of his soul. We all have a part in the body of Christ, and often the

ones who feel they are the least noticed are the ones who are the most important.

Let us abhor the evil but retain a love for the sinner, for all men are of great worth to God. If we cleave to that which is good, then are we better able to resist evil. Remain instant in prayer that you may know the deliverance of the Lord, for He is ever ready to help those who call upon His name. I believe that our minds should always be in the frame of prayer, that it would just be natural to call on the Lord at any moment of distress. When we walk continually with Him, He is able to deliver our souls from the snares of the devil.

Let us avoid anything that can hinder us from coming before God in prayer. We must be patient in tribulation, knowing that any discomfort is only temporary and that victory is ours through the promises of our Lord. Let us live peaceably with all men, fervently serving the Lord; not high minded but condescending to men of low estate. Be honest with all men, always giving more than is expected, that we might be found to be men and women of honor, preferring one another and hoping for another's gain above our own. Be quick to rejoice in the good times and ready to weep with those who are in sorrow that the love of God be always seen in us.

God has commanded that we love one another, and that we do it out of willing sacrifice for the benefit of our brethren. Let us be without fault in our relation to the laws of the land--not wavering in our faith but in obedience to the ordinances set up by those in authority unless they be in direct conflict with the commands of God. Rulers were not set up to punish good works but evil. Pray that the Lord will see fit that it stay this way. But if the rulers would punish the right, what have we to lose, for this is only a temporary dwelling for the believers of Christ. To lose all here is only to gain all above for all eternity. Love worketh no ill but is kind and patient to all, even to those who would have us in derision and make life hard for us. The

time is far spent and the day is at hand; therefore let us walk honestly and put on the armor of light and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof.

My fellow travelers, earth and its attraction are but a fleeting moment. Heaven and its glory last for eternity. Let men deride or pity; we would serve the Lord.

Sincerely, John L. Beery

Williamsport, Indiana

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

Dear Heavenly Father,

Sorry to bother You again, but I know that You always listen, and "if any man lack wisdom, let him ask". . .but why am I telling You that? You're the One that made the offer! Anyway, I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed, and well, just a little lonely. My twenty-four 7th and 8th graders are looking to me as their teacher. Me, a teacher? That's scary. Many times, I don't have a clue, but really this whole thing is a gigantic lesson in humility. I need more of that. . .but those humiliating experiences sure are kind of hard to take. The other day I put two #11's on the same test! Sure confused the students and embarrassed me. Lord, help me in the little things to be careful. So much of what I do affects others.

I'm really concerned about several students, Lord. You know who they are. I love these children. They are all so unique and full of awesome potential. But I see the effects of wrong choices and the pull of the world in their lives. Oh God, help me to be a true "example of the believers" to them! Show me where I'm inconsistent and please give me the grace I need to change. Some of these children so desperately need stability in their lives. Have You put me here to fill part of that need? Make me more like Jesus, the One who knew when to raise His

voice in authority and when to whisper words of encouragement. I need to be more sensitive, Lord.

Thank You so much for my fellow staff members. They are so gifted, and dedicated to serving. I'd be lost without them. But we're people, and You know what that means. Give us peace and unity, Lord, along with a clear, focused vision of our purpose here. It's pretty easy to get caught up in the academics and overlook the souls in our care. Keep me humble enough to always be willing to learn from others.

Thank You, too, for the circumstances that you've placed me in. My wife and children, Lord, are the most precious treasure a man could ask for. Help me to express it to them. I am getting pretty sick of this wheelchair, but if it weren't for that, I probably wouldn't be here, so I accept it as part of your plan for me. Sure puts me on the same level as the children. If it's Your will though, I'd sure like to walk again.

Lord, give the parents what they need. It seems to me that some need encouragement, and other need a kick in the pants, but I have opinions; You have the answers. It's just that they have only one chance with their children, and Lord, it seems that some are so blind to the tactics of the devil! Open our eyes, Lord, to see clearly in this world of deception. Help us all to raise our standards and be light for Jesus Christ, and it is in His name I pray. Amen.

Lloyd Wagner, Modesto, California

Selected from WCBS News

THANKSGIVING

For all true words that have been spoken,
For all brave deeds that have been done,
For every loaf in kindness broken,
For every race in valor run,
For martyr lips which have not failed
To give God praise and smile to rest,

For knightly souls which have not quailed
At stubborn strife or lonesome quest;
Lord, unto whom we stand in thrall,
We give Thee thanks for all, for all.

For each fair field where golden stubble
Hath followed wealth of waving grain;
For every passing wind of trouble
Which bends Thy grass that lifts again;
For gold in mine that men must seek,
For work which bows the sullen knee;
For strength, swift sent to aid the weak,
For love by which we climb to Thee;
Thy freemen, Lord, yet each Thy thrall,
We give Thee praise for all, for all.

Margaret E. Sangster

HYMN HISTORY

Amazing Grace

The man's own words are carved on his tombstone: "John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slavers in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had so long labored to destroy."

Newton had been to sea ever since his pious mother had died when he was only seven. After sailing with his sea-captain father, he had joined the British navy. He deserted, was caught, put in irons, and whipped in public. Defiant, the youth signed on the lowest of all sea-going craft--a slave ship. Young John Newton hardly knew how to read. But he knew the sea, and it wasn't long before he was master of his own slaver.

At twenty-three years of age he made his last voyage. He was sick when he staggered down the plank to land. Stricken with fever, he was sick physically. And he was sick spiritually and morally. But most of all, he was sick of the slave traffic.

On a long voyage from Brazil, Newton had read a book called *Imitation of Christ* written three centuries earlier by Thomas `a Kempis. Then came a storm that all but sent the captain and his ship to the bottom of the Atlantic. When the storm calmed, he began thinking about the Christ of whom the monk had written in his thought-provoking book.

Not an Englishman in the empire would have dreamed that Captain John Newton would have quit the sea to preach Christ, but that's exactly what his mind was set on doing. After sixteen years at a land job by day and self-education by night, John Newton was ordained in the Anglican Church and sent to the little town of Olney. Throughout his years of ministry, God's amazing grace remained central to Newton's thinking. When it was suggested he retire (at age eighty-two) due to poor health and a failing memory, he responded, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior!"

It was during his early years in the ministry that he wrote this age-old favorite for the conclusion of one of his sermons:

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

Information from the following: *A Hymn Is Born* by Clint Bonner, 1959 Broadman Press. Used by permission. *The One Year Book of Hymns* compiled and edited by Robert K. Brown and Mark R. Norton (c) 1995. Devotions written by William J. Peterson. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

Jean Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

ORDINATION AND ADVANCEMENT

Indiana Congregation

On October 7, 2000, Brother Neil Martin was ordained to the eldership. May he and his wife Lois continue in faithful service. Brother Joe Royer and Brother Daniel Beery were advanced to the second degree of ministry. May they too be blessed to serve faithfully with their wives Elizabeth Royer and Miriam Beery.

BAPTISMS--Indiana Congregation

Dorcas Royer, September 24, Goshen, Indiana

Sarah Harper, October 5, Goshen, Indiana

We rejoice with the angels, and pray that these young sisters will serve the Lord Jesus all their days.

BIRTHS

CABLE - A son, Robert Glenn, born September 20 to Andrew and Joanna Cable of Wakarusa, Indiana.

YODER - A daughter, Julita Renee, born October 7 to Timothy and Serena Yoder of Goshen, Indiana.

WAGNER - A daughter, Elizabeth Marie, born October 14 to Dan and Donna Wagner of Dallas Center, Iowa.

DINGMAN - A son, Kalman, born October 21, 1994, and adopted October 16 sssby Dan and Joyce Dingman of Bradford, Ohio.

MOORE - A daughter, Shanae Raelle, born October 24 to Richard and Nicole Moore of Oakdale, California.

GOLDING - A son, Troy Jason, born October 25 to Jeff and Deanna Golding of Wakarusa, Indiana.

ADDRESS CHANGE

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OBITUARY

HAROLD EIKENBERRY, son of Elder Ervan and Stella (Brower) Eikenberry, was born November 21, 1904, in Preble County, Ohio, near Camden. He passed away August 3, 2000, at the age of 95 years, 8 months, and 13 days.

On March 6, 1927, he was united in marriage with Mary Garber. They farmed all their married life in the Gratis area. Harold drove a school bus for Lanier school for twenty-five years and helped Mary in the wedding cake business approximately twenty-five years. Annual Meeting was held on their farm in 1956. Harold also enjoyed a trip to the Holy Land in 1956.

Harold and Mary were baptized on August 1, 1951, in the Upper Twin district of the Old German Baptist Church. Mary passed away April 28, 1983.

In July, 1984, he married Genevieve Barber, and she passed away in August, 1989. Harold then lived alone until July 20, 1994, when he moved to Goshen, Indiana, with his grandchildren, Merideth and Rhonda Cable. He was very lovingly cared for by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed many visits by the Old Brethren and Old German Baptist Brethren at Goshen until his passing. Harold was anointed the day of his passing.

Harold and Mary had no children of their own, but on May 17, 1943, they took Betty Gregg as their own. Her husband, children, and grandchildren became their family.

Harold is survived by his daughter Betty and her husband Robert Lee Meador; six grandchildren: Rhonda and husband Merideth Cable, Carol Meador, Shirley and husband Greg Root, Karen and husband Jeff Pansing, Bonnie and husband Jim Yost, Scott Meador and his wife Jewel; sixteen great-grandchildren and their companions; and eleven great-great-grandchildren.

These little children were very close to him. Many nieces and nephews also survive him.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two companions, and a brother Carlton.

Funeral services were held August 7 at the Upper Twin meeting house at West Alexandria, Ohio, by the home brethren. Brother Kenneth Martin of the Old Brethren Church conducted the service at the funeral home. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery, West Alexandria, Ohio.

The Family

CHILDREN'S PAGE: Patient Penny

"Daddy, it's hot back here," whined Andy from the back seat of the van. "It is SO hot, and I'm miserable."

"I'm sorry, Son," Daddy answered, "but I can't run the air conditioner while we are stopped in this traffic jam."

"Let's sing, Andy," suggested Penny.

"Aren't you too hot?" Andy asked her.

"I'm awful hot," Penny answered, "but let's sing anyway." She began to sing. "When He cometh, when He cometh, To make up His jewels. . ." When she got to the chorus, "Like the stars of the morning, His bright crown adorning, They shall shine in their beauty, Bright gems for His crown," Andy sang along, too.

After they sang the whole song, Andy squirmed and whined again. "I'm just so HOT, Daddy, I can't stand it."

Even while he was talking, Penny began another song, "I've two little hands to work for Jesus. . ." and Andy sang along. After that song, it was "I've got a home in gloryland that outshines the sun. . ." Andy loved to sing the chorus on this one and he sang with all his might, "Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me."

Penny wiped the sweat from her face with her dress skirt, and asked. "Mama, may I please have a drink?"

Mama reached for the thermos and poured water for Penny.

"I'm so thirsty, let me have that one," pleaded Andy. "Here, that's for me!" Patiently, Penny gave that drink to Andy and waited till he drank it and Mama poured some for her.

"Thank you, Mama," she said. "Let's sing again, Andy."

"I'm too hot," grumbled Andy. "I'm just hot, hot, hot!"

Penny quietly began singing. Andy soon joined in. They sang "How Great Thou Art," "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," "Lord, a Little Band and Lowly," and "The B-I-B-L-E."

Then the van began to move, faster and faster. Daddy turned the air conditioner on and that felt so good to the hot children in the back seat. The traffic had been stopped for one hour, but now the road-work machinery was out of the way.

"Thank you, Penny, for being so patient in the heat," Daddy said, "and for helping Andy to forget about being hot, too. We'll soon be at Uncle Joe's. Then you can run and play in the fresh air."

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

THE LIGHT SHINETH IN DARKNESS

The world was lost before that night;
All men were deep in sin
Until the night when brightest light
Gave all men hope again.

What happened on that special day
That gave men joy for gloom?
The Christ was born with us to stay
To light the darkest tomb.

"Glory to God," the angels sang.
"Peace and goodwill to men."
The shepherds' praise to heaven rang
For light had come again.

Did light shine in your heart, my friend?
Did you hear songs of joy?
You can, and it will be the end
For you in sin's employ.

Because Christ came to save the lost,
Because His story's true,
Because He paid the highest cost
Grace comes to me. . . and you.

Then praise and thank our Lord so great
To form a perfect plan,
That through Christ's death He could create
New hearts in fallen man. --L.C.

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SHEPHERDS OF JUDEA

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the birth announcement came to "all people" through the angel's message to the Judean shepherds. Considering the greatness of the news, we might think it would have come to the heads of the nations or to the religious leaders. But from the record of Luke, it appears that these humble shepherds were carefully chosen by God to receive this Good News. Though we are far removed in time and distance from the Bethlehem hills, it can be profitable for us to take notice of their admirable qualities.

First, they were doing their job. Concern for the sheep under their care took them to the field at night to keep watch. Jackals, hyenas, wolves, and lions were a recurring threat to sheep. Later, Jesus warned us to watch and pray. Night brings times of danger and temptation.

When they heard the message of God, they did not doubt or scoff or cower in fear. The angel said, "Fear not," and the words were of peace, joy, and good will. The shepherds responded well, though they saw and heard brightness and glory that few mortals have witnessed.

They acted on the message. "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." This humble scene must have seemed a vivid contrast to the glorious multitude of heavenly beings they had just been shown.

They believed the message and also published it. They "made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." They must have felt like Peter and John later declared to the Sanhedrin: "For we cannot but speak the

things which we have seen and heard." "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

We also have seen and heard much. Let us now go even unto Bethlehem. Let us learn about Jesus' humble life of service. Let us hear His call, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden." Let us follow Him to Calvary and worship Him there. Let His death for our sins impress us in such a way that we, too, will repeat the message, glorifying and praising God for all that we have heard and seen. "O come let us adore Him." --L.C

BUILDING THE CHURCH

Our new church building is well under way. Planning, effort, and finances have come together with the blessing of God who does all things well. He alone knows the effort that some have put into obtaining permits, preparing the ground, settling on blueprints, and on and on. We could name some who have been most diligent, but God knows and will reward accordingly.

Our thanks go to our eastern brethren who gave time, means, and labor to help us in building. After the foundation and floor, the "work week" saw an encouraging change on the hillside: a building with roof, closed-in walls, framed partitions, and a code-specified, professionally engineered, painfully installed fire wall that will isolate half of the building in case of fire. Building is not simple in California these days.

We thank those also who remained at home, filling in for the ones who came. Some helped with chores, some mothers stayed alone with children, and we know that many prayed. Thank God that there were no major accidents when thirty men worked together while children played and helped by picking up blocks and nails, and enjoyed the high hillside that overlooks the whole scene.

We can make comparisons to the building of God that Jesus is framing in the world today: the Church against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. That house made of lively (living) stones is the one this wooden one is dedicated to promote, second to the Lord Jesus Himself.

In building of any kind, there must be a plan. God had the plan from the foundation of the world that His Church would rise, founded on the rock Jesus Christ. We think putting up a church house in our day is costly. But that eternal building cost the blood of God's only Son--precious, pure, in fact, priceless.

For our project we have a good supervisor--one who has had experience and knows the codes. He makes decisions the rest must follow if there is to be harmony and efficiency in the work. There are also those who know how to use a hammer and power tools doing the major work needed. Then there are those who are learning but helpful in unskilled jobs.

In the Church there is One who is over all--planning, ordering, sacrificing. He is always on the job; He said He would not leave us to our own devices or to the will of the adversary, but would be our constant Guide. The rest must follow--filling places of responsibility, but always sensitive to the will and direction of the Lord.

The building is not done. Even so that heavenly building will not be complete until the last stone is in place and Jesus comes again.

Fire wall notwithstanding, this wooden building could burn, and someday it will. See II Peter 3:10. But the Church of Jesus Christ will go on into eternity--the monument to the sacrifice, the effort, the skill, the unlimited power of God Himself. May we be part of *that* house. --L.C.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. --I Corinthians 3:9

ADOPTION

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." This is a title of respect.

Man, losing in the fall his role of sonship to a Heavenly Father, has become the son of another father and has taken on his nature. Every living soul born into the world reveals in his character who his father is. Jesus declared this when He said, "I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. . . Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." (John 8:38,44) All human behavior is a revelation of who its father is.

The parable of the wheat and the tares reveals that the good seed is the children of God and the tares are the children of the wicked one. Because Elymas persisted in perverting the right ways of God, Paul reminded him that he was a child of the devil. (Acts 13:10)

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Rom. 3:10-12) This is a picture of all men, and it remains the condition of those that have not in truth responded to God's offer to become their Father. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

To become a child of God calls us to virtues that declare His righteousness. "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." (I John 2:29)

To become a child of God makes us accountable to his family. "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (I John 4:20)

To be a child of God separates us from sin and the world. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I John 3:1-3) "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." (I Peter 1:22) "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. (I John 3:10-12)

When Jesus was teaching His children how to pray, He said, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven. . ." This is to remind us that when we come before the throne of grace, we bring our brothers with us, and when we end, we pray in His name.

Adoption can only be secure in obedience to the Father. This is proven by the nation of Israel ". . .to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving

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Janna Jewel Martin		Dec. 20, 1999
Jared Luke Royer		Feb. 10
Will Stephen Coning		Feb. 14
Pearl Dove Martin		Mar. 8
Adam Jesse Cover		Mar. 8
Amy Renee Cover		Mar. 10
Bronson Trey Yoder		Mar. 14
Heather Elaine Beery		May 1
Wesley Aaron Cable		May 6
Cheyenne Desirae Flora		May 12
Kendra Kristina Bowser		May 14
Moses Jethro Stalter		May 28
Rose Marie Blocher		Jul. 20
Lance Edison Oberholzer		Jul. 24
Katrina Lois Harris		Aug. 27
Robert Glenn Cable		Sep. 20
Julita Renee Yoder		Oct. 7
Elizabeth Marie Wagner		Oct. 14
Kalman Dingman	Oct. 21, 1994; Adopted	Oct. 16, 2000
Shanae Raelle Moore		Oct. 24
Troy Jason Golding		Oct. 25
Elaine Sharon Wells		Nov. 3
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of the law, and the service of the God, and the promises." (Romans 9:4) When Pharaoh was confronted about letting Israel go, he was told by the command of God. "Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me. . ." We know the history and outcome of this son. It was broken off because of unfaithfulness. This is a reminder to us that are grafted in: we can also be broken off. The requirement is that we keep ourselves in the love of God and prove it not in tongue only, but in deed and in truth.

In this secure relationship we now have with our Father in heaven, we can, in these earthly bodies that are subject to suffering and death, rest in a blessed hope: "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." (Romans 8:22,23)

With this knowledge, we can truly say, "Abba Father."

Kenneth Martin, Nappanee, Indiana

MARRIAGE

ROOT--BRUBAKER Brian Root and Emily Brubaker were married October 28, at MiWuk, California. New address:

19194 Cherokee Road

Tuolumne, CA 95379 (209) 928-3356

BIRTHS

WELLS - A daughter, Elaine Sharon, born November 3 to Glenn and Sharon Wells of Taylorsville, Mississippi.

HILTY - A daughter, Erica Banae, born November 16 to Jeff and Allison Hilty of Goshen, Indiana.

CROWLEY - A son, Thomas John, born December 2 to Kevin and Jennifer Crowley of Potrero, California.

BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE

In life, happiness and gratitude can come from a lot of places. The following is something to ponder.

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

"If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

"In you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75% of this world.

"If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

"If your parents are still alive and still married... you are very rare, even in the United States.

"If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful... You are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

"If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder... you are blessed because you can offer healing touch."

By Chaplain Bryan Lewis in the
Sonora Community Hospital *Scann'r*

Speak kind words; hear kind echoes.

JESUS

Hear the wondrous story
Of the King of glory
And His earthly mission long ago.
Days of love and caring
He our sorrows sharing
To relieve our misery and woe.

See Him in the manger
Little lovely Stranger
Angels sing His coming in the sky.
Shepherds bending o'er Him
Kneeling there before Him
Glory be to God who reigns on high.

Wise men travel going
Hastily or slowing
See the shining star that beckons on.
Stops at last in favor,
Pointing to the Savior,
He that brings to us the glorious dawn.

Mary for Him caring;
He so young, and faring
Out upon this earth of pain and woe.
Sees disease and sighing;
Heals the sick and dying;
Sees the tears for sin and sorrow flow.

On the cross extended,
Where our life depended,
There our Lord and King was crucified.

To the thief confessing,
Jesus' words caressing,
Father hears Him calling as He died.

Death could never hold Him
Or its chains infold Him
Rising Lord of Lords and King of Kings.
While the ground is shaking,
Saints to life awaking,
Jesus to His loved ones comfort brings.

Jesus Lord forever
Now no power can sever
Love for Christians to their Lord above.
Praise and adoration
From the holy nation
Going to the land of peace and love.
Joseph I. Cover, 1961

FOR YOUTH: What Would Mary Think?

I wonder what Mary would think and say
If she saw how the world keeps Christmas today.
There's too much to eat; there's too much to drink;
No time to remember and no time to think
What the day really means and what's back of it all;
No time to think of the Christ Child small.
Mary must have been weary and very afraid
When she went with her husband, the tax to be paid.
As the slow day passed with the small beast's plod,
Did she wonder why she had been called of God
To be mother of Him who'd be King of men?
Yes, she must have wondered again and again.

The city was crowded with people that day,
And Joseph searched long for a place to stay.
Though her need was greater than any other,
No man gave his bed for the soon-to-be mother.
No downy pillow cushioned her weary head;
There was only straw and her shawl for a bed.
While the angels sang and a star shone bright,
The Babe was born in a manger that night.
The first day was holy, not like Christmas today;
What would Mary think and what would she say?
There was no room for Christ at the very start,
And some still refuse Him a place in the heart.

Author unknown

Selected by Rosanna Royer

from *Poems to Enjoy for Mother (and Dad)*

CHILDREN'S PAGE: Honest Otis

Otis was known as an honest boy. It wasn't that he never got into trouble--oh, no! Like any other boy, he sometimes forgot and bounced balls in the house, And he forgot to close the chicken house door one night. Another time, he left a library book outside, and it rained that night. Yes, Otis was a typical boy who got into mischief often enough. The difference with Otis, though, was that if anything was his fault, he quickly admitted it and took his punishment.

At school one day, Teacher noticed someone had scribbled on the white basement walls with a felt-tip marker. When she asked the first-grade boys who had done it, they all said, "Not me!" Teacher knew it had to be one of these boys. She let Otis go back upstairs to his desk, but kept the other three boys in the basement until she found out who did the scribbling. That was a miserable time for those boys. The guilty boy got more

scared all the time, because he was lying on top of having done the scribbling. The two other boys knew they were telling the truth this time, but Teacher did not know if they were telling the truth or not. Too many times before, they had not told the truth. All three boys began to wonder why Otis was allowed to go back upstairs. Of course, they didn't think it was fair. They complained to Teacher. What do you think Teacher told them?

She told them that Otis had always told the truth, and she could believe it when he said, "Not me." "But," she said, "all three of you boys have told me untruths, so I cannot trust you to be telling the truth now!"

Children, you need to always tell the truth. Then people can believe you, and you will be developing a good habit which pleases your parents, as well as God.

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

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